

HOME NEWS

Fears of return to campaign of tit-for-tat sectarian killing after two men shot dead in Ulster

From Christopher Walker

Two Roman Catholic men were shot dead in Northern Ireland at lunchtime yesterday; afterwards there were widespread fears that the province was returning to a campaign of tit-for-tat sectarian killing not experienced in recent months.

Both victims were shot down on the outskirts of Portadown, a predominantly Protestant town with a long history of sectarian strife. Senior police officers think the shootings were carried out by extreme "loyalists" in direct retaliation for the recent increase in Provisional IRA violence, which has claimed four lives in the past week.

There has been growing anger among Ulster's majority Protestant population since the IRA bombing of the La Mon House restaurant last month in which 12 civilians were killed. Politicians and community leaders have repeatedly called for restraint, but as the IRA violence continued, many detectives regarded a return to sectarian assassinations by loyalist paramilitary groups as inevitable.

The two men who died yesterday were Mr Thomas Trainor and Mr Denis Kelly, both in their early thirties. As they walked home from an employment exchange they were struck by a hail of bullets fired by a pillion passenger on a motor cycle, who then escaped down a road near by.

Although neither victim was

believed to be a member of a paramilitary group, a senior member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary on the spot said there were signs that the men's movements had been watched and the ambush carefully planned in advance.

Mr Trainor was the third member of his family to die violently in Northern Ireland over the past three years. In April, 1975, his mother was shot dead and her husband was seriously wounded in a gun attack in a Portadown park.

In December that year one of his younger brothers was killed after extreme loyalists had launched a gun and bomb attack on the family home. At the time messages of sympathy from extreme republican groups appeared among death notices in a Belfast newspaper.

The latest diplomatic dispute between the British and Dublin governments over the extent to which Provisional IRA violence in Ulster has cross-border dimensions continued unabated yesterday.

Official British sources disclosed that strong representations had been made to the Dublin Government about alleged IRA activity in the republic on two separate occasions before Mr Mason's controversial Commons speech last Monday.

On both occasions the complaints were made through the normal diplomatic contacts between the British Embassy in Dublin and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs. They

are understood to have included specific allegations about Provisional IRA activity south of the border.

The first diplomatic exchange took place last December. It covered British intelligence reports that IRA men were seeking medical help in the republic and that others were using the republic as safe refuge.

The British diplomats also maintained that Provisional IRA training camps were being operated south of the border, which they said were also being used to mount forays into Northern Ireland and for the smuggling of fertilizer-based explosives.

British officials were disappointed by the lack of response from the Dublin authorities to the top-level representations. As a result the same subjects were raised again at another diplomatic meeting in Dublin, which is believed to have taken place shortly before Mr Mason made his Commons attack on Mr Lynch's government.

Meanwhile, in Dublin yesterday, Mr Michael O'Kennedy, the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, challenged Mr Mason to produce evidence or stop making his allegations about cross-border involvement in Ulster's violence. He said the Irish Government totally rejected the implications of Mr Mason's speech and added that the suggestion that the La Mon House bombers might have found haven in the republic was particularly repulsive.

Offer on pay soon for 500,000 officials

By Christopher Thomas

All 500,000 non-industrial civil servants will soon get a pay offer just inside the Government's 10 per cent guideline. The two biggest of the eight unions will decide today on their response to the Civil Service Department's refusal to yield to claims of up to 30 per cent.

An offer is probable next week. The biggest union, the Civil and Public Services Association, has already decided to accept the offer, but the other seven unions are still to be consulted before a final decision is made.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, general secretary, will report to his union's Civil Service Association today on the outcome of informal talks with the Civil Service Department.

He said last night: "Next week will be critical. We are either going to emerge with an offer we can accept or everything will explode."

The middle-management Society of Civil and Public Servants has called an executive meeting on pay today. In claiming rises well outside the guidelines, it said that private sector executives had succeeded in making massive breaches in phases one and two.

The other six unions, which have formed a coalition, are not challenging the 10 per cent limit but insist that because of minimal wage drift, amounting to about 0.05 per cent on the total wage bill, the settlement should not be less than 10 per cent.

Senior civil servants, judges and the top ranks in the armed forces are awaiting the findings of Lord Boyle of Hamworth's review body on pay. It is due to report in mid-April.

The Boyle Committee recommended substantial rises in 1974 and all but the state industries, MPs and Cabinet ministers have had half the intended increases. The Government has now decided whether it can honour the 1974 increases or whether those covered by the review body are to be held to a "phase three" increase.

The Civil Service national staff side, comprising all the unions, has expressed in a submission to the review body the strong feelings of the higher Civil Service about their pay and "the compelling case for improvement at the earliest possible date."

It said: "We strongly deplore the continued and unjustified delay in paying deputy secretaries and permanent secretaries the second stage of the 1974 Top Salaries Review body award, and consider that the amount still outstanding should be paid without further delay."

More injuries from street fireworks

The number of injuries from fireworks in Britain in 1977, at 733, showed a 7 per cent increase over 1976 but they were still the second lowest on record, according to Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

He said in a parliamentary reply yesterday that although there had been a gratifying reduction in fireworks injuries over the past 10 years he still proposed to consult the Secretary of State in the Home Office on possible ways of reducing injuries caused by letting off fireworks in the street.

Last year's figures showed a decline in injuries at private, semi-public and public parties, but there was a 61 per cent increase in injuries arising from incidents in the street.

Inspectors approve policy and work of criticized school

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

A pioneering comprehensive school that came under attack from its parents has been almost totally vindicated in a glowing report by a team of her Majesty's inspectors.

In a preface to a summary of the report, published yesterday, Mrs Williams, secretary of state for education and science, says that the inspectors' findings show what there is no need for any serious disquiet about the Sutton Centre Community School at Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, though they did suggest that certain aspects of the school's work could be improved.

The school opened in 1973 with about 300 pupils, but has since been enlarged to nearly 1,500 pupils. Its aims include the maintenance of close links with the community, mixed-ability teaching throughout the school, and the development of self-discipline. Pupils are pre-

pared for CSE examinations but not for GCE O levels. A full inspection of the school was ordered by Nottinghamshire's chief education officer after a group of parents had complained last term about a sweating lesson room to have been given to pupils aged 13.

The inspectors' report is particularly complimentary about the high standard of personal relationships achieved in the school, about the cooperation and commitment to learning of its pupils, and about its strong sense of community responsibility.

"The general conduct of the school and the care and interest shown by the staff in the premises are outstanding and the visitor is impressed with a feeling of buoyant vitality. The school has tried in every possible way to serve the community and with its interest and support it deserves that support from its community", the report says.

The school was particularly

well managed with clear directives on all matters of policy. The pastoral system was effective, though demanding on staff. The school does not use such sanctions as corporal punishment or detention, believing that the expression of community disapproval is usually sufficient to control day-to-day misbehaviour, and that supervision for more serious cases.

The trust of the school in that philosophy had evidently not been misplaced, the report pressed by the generally excellent behaviour of the school. Lessons were seldom disrupted. Pupils were friendly, courteous and respectful.

It was rare for a school that had been open as long as the Sutton Centre to keep its premises still so fresh in appearance. There was no serious sign of vandalism, and less evidence of wear and tear than might have been expected.

Sums defeat the school-leavers

Continued from page 1

Girls' results were consistently worse than boys' in the ILEA area, for example, 2.6 per cent of boys achieved full marks, but only 0.3 per cent of girls did so. Dame Kathleen said that girls' improving performance in GCE examinations had partly created misleading expectations about their potential in the lower-ability ranges.

The most difficult question, measured in the number of wrong answers, was the last on the paper, involving train times. Next came the expression of 40 per cent as a decimal and then the inter-

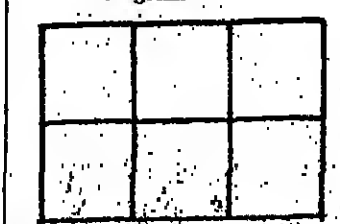
pretation of an opinion poll question (15). But even in the first six "mechanical" questions more than half the children in the best authority, Buckinghamshire, still gave wrong answers. In the ILEA area, only a quarter answered all six correctly.

The widespread bluntness on percentages reflected in answers to question seven is regarded as particularly disturbing by the institute in view of their general use in society.

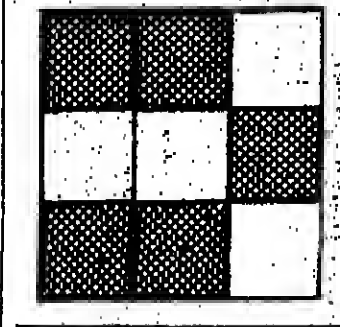
The questions put in the test are given below; answers on page 18.

NEWS
CLASSICAL MUSIC
TALKS
POP MUSIC
PLAYS
10. 20 HOURS

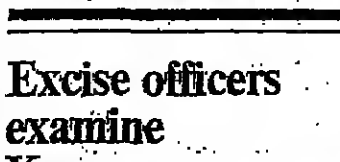
1. (a) $14 + 35 =$
(b) $43 + 282 =$
2. (a) $77 - 53 =$
(b) $911 - 102 =$
3. (a) $7 \times 8 =$
(b) $6 \times 79 =$
4. (a) $24 \div 6 =$
(b) $243 \div 9 =$
5. (a) $13.3 + 2.8 =$
(b) $79.3 - 8.1 =$
6. (a) $3 \times 42.5 =$
(b) $13.5 \div 5 =$
7. (a) Write 4% as a percentage.
(b) Write 40% as a decimal.
8. (a) Shade in $\frac{1}{2}$ of this diagram



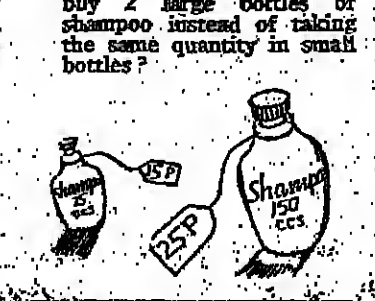
9. Milk is 12p per pint. If I use two pints each day, what is my weekly milk bill?
10. A reduction of 20% is given on sale items. What is the sale price of a pair of jeans marked at £15?



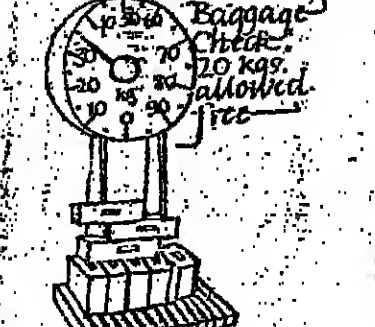
11. The rent of a large flat is £19.80 per week and that of a small flat is £12.70 per week. How much extra do I have to pay each year if I take the large flat rather than the small one? (You need not work this out exactly, an answer correct to within £20 will do.)
12. A cheque is made out for one hundred and forty nine pounds and nine pence. Write this amount in figures.
13. How much do I save, if I buy 2 large bottles of shampoo instead of taking 4 small quantities in small bottles?



14. How many kg's excess baggage?
15. This chart shows the number of hours given to various types of programmes, in one week, on a radio channel



16. RESULTS OF OPINION POLL TASTING A NEW COFFEE



17. Train Timetable

Train	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234	1234
Cardiff	06.15	07.15	08.15	09.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15
London	06.30	07.30	08.30	09.30	10.30	11.30	12.30	13.30	14.30
Manchester	06.45	07.45	08.45	09.45	10.45	11.45	12.45	13.45	14.45
Sheffield	07.00	08.00	09.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00

Steel debate confusion after Liberal revolt

By Fred Emery

Political Editor

A Liberal revolt against the Government in today's important Commons debate on the British Steel Corporation's losses of £10m a day has put the outcome in doubt.

The Government's survival in office is not at stake since the issue is not being made one of confidence. But the Liberals' actions could bring about an embarrassing defeat and of the Government as well as a defeat for the Conservatives.

That double Liberal play emerged as 12 of the Party's 13 MPs met last night and decided to oppose, successfully, the government amendment and the Tory motion.

The Liberals are tabling their own amendment, which is most unlikely to be called. The result, if the manoeuvre succeeds, will be that the Commons will end by taking no more action.

The debate is being forced on the Government by the Conservatives and is seen as the first test of the Government's handling of the crisis and the closures to be forced upon the ailing industry, and of the actions of the two ministers involved, Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Kaufman, one of his ministers of state.

It will be their first opportunity to reply to severe criticisms brought against them by the bipartisan Select Committee on Nationalized Industries. The reports of the select committee are at the centre of today's debate.

The Liberals, after receiving assurances from Mr Varley that plant closures would cut over-

manning, refused to follow the advice of Mr Richard Wright, their industry spokesman.

He had recommended supporting the Government, and Mr Kaufman did not again resort to attacking the select committee's members.

However, Mr David Pennington, Liberal MP for Truro, who is fast becoming a veteran maverick, combined with Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, to twist the knife in the Government's wound.

"I do not see why we should bail the Government out of the consequences of nationalizing industries which we do not agree with", Mr Pennington told Mr Kaufman.

It is also possible that the Scottish National Party will vote against the Government's spokesman as seeking a meeting with Mr Kaufman today. They want "categorical assurances" about Scottish plants. Specifically, they want Glenrock to be kept going, and an immediate start on construction of a fully integrated steel works at Hunterston in Strathclyde.

The Tories, somewhat overlooked in the flurry of activity last night, precipitated the debate once the Government had declined to make time for debate ahead of its own statement on the future of the steel industry. That is expected before Easter, although a ministerial meeting yesterday with the Prime Minister in the chair, was said not to have completed the Government's decisions on the corporation.

Columnist questioned about editing

The Financial Times yesterday began its cross-examination of Mr C. Gordon Tether, the columnist dismissed 17 months ago after a long controversy with Mr M. H. (Freddie) Fisher, the newspaper's editor, about editing over his daily column.

It was the thirteenth day of the hearing of Mr Tether's reinstatement claim before an industrial tribunal.

Mr Tether, aged 64, who wrote the Lombard column in the Financial Times for 21 years, said he was asking for compensation because of the withdrawal by the Financial Times of its offer of full pay until normal retirement age, and an unaffected pension.

In reply to questions by Mr Thomas Morrison, counsel for the Financial Times, Mr Tether said he had complained of Mr Fisher's "irrational behaviour" in his implementation of the directive restricting the subjects he could write on.

Mr Fisher's "irrational behaviour" was in the way in which he prevented consultation between them. If he was asked to discuss the headings under which he put Mr Fisher's behaviour, he would have to go through the documentation of the case item by item.

Mr William Wells, QC, chairman, intervened to point out Mr Tether "what a damaging answer" to his own interests that had been. Mr Tether said he did not agree. Mr Morrison said Mr Tether had also alleged that when Mr Justin Dukes, the newspaper's managing director, listened to a telephone conversation between himself and Mr Fisher it was a piece of nasty plotting by the Financial Times.

The hearing was adjourned until May 2.

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Excise officers examine Kagan papers

By Craig Seton

Customs and excise investigators yesterday were examining documents removed from the home offices of Lord Kagan, chairman of the Gannex Group of Companies.

The Customs and Excise Board said yesterday that investigators, acting under Treasury authority, were inquiring into the transfer of capital from the United Kingdom in possible contravention of the Exchange Control Act, 1947, and the Customs and Excise Act, 1952, in relation to exports of textiles. Premises in Yorkshire, Lancashire and London were entered by the investigators.

Lord Kagan was knighted in 1970 shortly after Sir Harold Wilson's defeat in the general election, and was elevated to the peerage in Sir Harold's Resignation Honours in 1976.

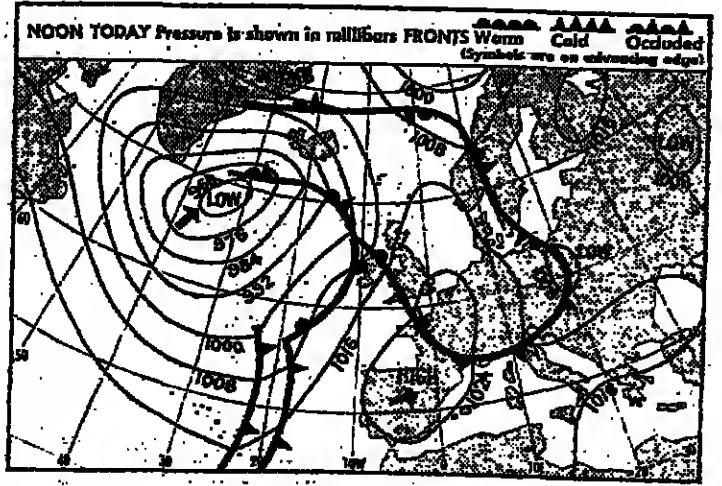
Lord Kagan, aged 62, started his Yorkshire-based textile business in 1951 and built it around a formula for bonding waterproof nylon to a woolen lining to make the Gannex coat, which was made popular by Sir Harold.

Gannex-Kagan Textiles Ltd is based at Elland in West Yorkshire. Lord Kagan was not available for comment yesterday. Mr William Acock, managing director of the company, said: "I do not know what this is all about. We have nothing to hide. From our point of view every door is open to the customs and excise. No officials have been given the fullest cooperation."

Pretar trains to go

The fast pretar Underground trains will be replaced during the early 1980s, London Transport said yesterday. New automatic trains are expected to be delivered by then for the Jubilee Line.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 6.29 am
Moon rises: 6.30 am
New moon: 2.38 am
Landing: 5.24 pm to 5.57 am
High water: London Bridge, 1.45 am, 7m (23.1ft); 2.13 pm, 7.3m (24.1ft)
Low water: London Bridge, 1.45 am, 14.1m (46.2ft); 7.47 pm, 13.1m (43.0ft)
Dover, 11.30 am, 6.8m (22.3ft); 11.32 pm, 7m (22.9ft)
Bull, 6.19 am, 7.5m (24.6ft)
6.28 pm, 7.7m (25.3ft); Liver, 11.20 am, 9.8m (32.2ft); 11.45 pm, 9.5m (31.3ft)

A ridge of high pressure over Britain will be followed by troughs of low pressure crossing from the W.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, E and central N. England, East Anglia, E Midlands: Bright spells after early fog, probably rain later; wind S to SW, moderate; max temp 12°C (55°F).
Central S and NW England, W Midlands, N Wales: Some bright intervals, rain from SW with high.

Weather reports yesterday
Midday: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; a, clear; sn, snow.
Aberdeen: c, 15-18; Glasgow: c, 14-17; London: c, 12-15; Manchester: c, 11-14; Newcastle: c, 10-13; Norwich: c, 11-14; Oxford: c, 12-15; Plymouth: c, 13-16; Reading: c, 11-14; Sheffield: c, 10-13; Southampton: c, 12-15; Swansea: c, 11-14; Cardiff: c, 10-13; Exeter: c, 11-14; Gloucester: c, 12-15; Hereford: c, 11-14; Ipswich: c, 12-15; Leicester: c, 11-14; Lincoln: c, 10-13; Liverpool: c, 11-14; Loughborough: c, 12-15; Luton: c, 11-14; Milton Keynes: c, 10-13; Nottingham: c, 11-14; Peterborough: c, 12-15; Preston: c, 10-13; Reading: c, 11-14; Southampton: c, 12-15; Swansea: c, 11-14; Cardiff: c, 10-13; Exeter: c, 11-14; Gloucester: c, 12-15; Hereford: c, 11-14; Ipswich: c, 12-15; Leicester: c, 11-14; Lincoln: c, 10-13; Liverpool: c, 11-14; Loughborough: c, 12-15; Luton: c, 11-14; Milton Keynes: c, 10-13; Nottingham: c, 11-14; Peterborough: c, 12-15; Preston: c, 10-13; Reading: c, 11-14; Southampton: c, 12-15; Swansea: c, 11-14; Cardiff: c, 10-13; Exeter: c, 11-14; Gloucester: c, 12-15; 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Milton Keynes: c, 10-1

Stay over

Or how to schedule yourself some relaxation

On your way to Asia* or Australia* stopover in Malaysia. No matter how tight your schedule, it's a relaxing and inexpensive break in an arduous journey.

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HOME NEWS

Immigration rate falls in 1977 by 11,432

By a Staff Reporter

The number of immigrants accepted for settlement in the United Kingdom fell from 80,745 in 1976 to 69,313 last year, according to figures released by the Home Office yesterday.

While the number of foreign nationals settled rose slightly from 31,464 to 31,917, the number of Commonwealth citizens fell by 24 per cent from 49,281 to 37,396. The number of citizens from the New Commonwealth and Pakistan allowed to settle here also fell from 55,813 to 44,155, a drop of a fifth.

The number of those accepted on arrival in the United Kingdom fell from 44,074 to 35,727. Fewer Commonwealth citizens were accepted in that manner (a drop of 32 per cent) but more foreign residents (an increase of 11 per cent).

Of those allowed to settle on arrival, there was a fall of 47 per cent in those coming with United Kingdom passports (including those with special vouchers and those of their dependants who held United Kingdom passports), a fall of 44 per cent in Indian citizens, 25 per cent in West Indian citizens and 19 per cent in Bangladeshi citizens.

But 15 per cent more Pakistanis were allowed to settle in that way, a rise caused, according to the Home Office, by the clearance earlier in the year of the backlog of priority applications of wives and young children of Pakistani heads of households settled in the United Kingdom.

In the category of those allowed to settle after they have been working here on temporary permits there were 11 per cent fewer Commonwealth citizens and 5 per cent fewer foreign nationals.

Each of the drop is attributed to the introduction in March 1977, of amended rules, by which men were no longer allowed to settle immediately on marriage but generally have their stay extended for up to 12 months.

The number of male Commonwealth citizens allowed to settle after a period of time because of marriage fell from 4,298 to 1,530, while the corresponding number of foreign nationals fell from 3,944 to 2,111. The numbers for both fell sharply after the first quarter of 1977.

The number of work-permit holders and their dependants admitted in 1977 fell from 3,025 to 2,459 for Commonwealth citizens, and from 16,753 to 14,749 for foreign nationals.

During 1977, 809 illegal immigrants were detected, compared with 394 during 1976.

Detailed figures will be published in April in the Command Paper *Control of Immigration: Statistics, 1977*.

Claims of widespread leafleting met with scepticism NF schools campaign 'small scale'

By Robert Parker

The National Front campaign aimed at recruiting school children may be making more headway than official surveys suggest.

The impression given by the Department of Education and Science, local education authorities and teachers' unions is that the campaign has been a flop. But it appears that the distribution of a large amount of literature may have gone undetected.

The campaign was launched at a press conference in London on January 19. The Young National Front had been set up in November, in response to what Mr John Tyndall, chairman of the Front, said was rapidly increasing interest among young people.

Mr Martin Webster, the Front's national activities organizer, said 350,000 pamphlets and leaflets would be distributed to school gates throughout Britain.

But five days later Mr Andrew Fountaine, chairman of the Young National Front and deputy chairman of the main party, issued an instruction to his branch, group and regional organizers and "such YNF organizers as have so far been appointed".

It stated: "The press and television are now attempting to lure or bully local or regional NF or YNF organizers to give advance details of where

particular leaflet operations are to be carried out. Organizers should not be tempted by these offers of more publicity, and must not give to any press representative or to any other person who is not a reliable party member advance details. Leafletting outside schools can be carried out by small teams (three or four leafletters maximum) quietly, in a calm atmosphere and without any element of demonstration or confrontation."

Mr Webster said last week that 350,000 leaflets had already been distributed. He said his organization had received more than two thousand letters since the beginning of the campaign and that about 500 young people had joined.

The National Front showed me some letters written in the past two months by people who say they are school-leavers and are interested in YNF literature or who want to join.

Officials at the Department of Education are concerned about this information, even though a survey of a third of English education authorities made four weeks ago indicated that the National Front's campaign was extremely limited.

That conclusion is borne out by other attempts to monitor the Front's activities in schools. The Commission for Racial Equality has asked community relations councils to report NF activity. Responses so far indi-

cate that leafletting is on a small scale.

The Inner London Education Authority says there have been no reported instances of leafletting in its 1,200 schools. The National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Headteachers, both of which have issued guidance to members on how to deal with racism in schools, say there is little sign of Front activity. YNF activity appears to have been greatest in Barking, east London.

It was in Barking last summer that Joe Pearce, aged 16, now a leading YNF member, started producing a racist magazine called *Bulldog*, which he and friends distributed in local schools. *Bulldog*, now in its sixth issue, has become the national publication of the YNF, and has often been distributed together with leaflets.

Even in Barking, however, the campaign seems to be on a small scale.

Picket planned: The YNF is to picket a meeting of teachers in Central Hall, Westminster, next Thursday evening. The meeting has been organized by the All-England Teachers' Against Racism and Fascism in Manchester next week. The YNF plans a protest outside the Granada television studios because a mythical film was made there for distribution in schools.

1981 census field tests to be held next month

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Two field tests on the form of the 1981 census are to be carried out in April, the first of a new series of monitors announced yesterday. About 50,000 households will be asked to complete forms that will allow most answers to be given by ticking boxes.

The new monitors, issued by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, aim at helping census users to prepare for analysing the results. The field tests in April will be at Slough, Berkshire, and Weymouth and Portland, Dorset. Those districts include residential areas, places with multi-occupied houses, town centres, areas with large immigrant populations, and places with holiday accommodation.

Questions on the number of children born to married women will be dropped from the 1981 census.

Action on shop pay sought

By Our Labour Reporter

The retail trade's traditional remark of labour may run dry when youth unemployment is brought under control, according to a report, *Trouble in Store*, published today by the Low Pay Unit. It says the trade relies heavily on cheap labour from young people who will move to jobs with better pay, training and career prospects

and second homes. The households will be asked basic questions about family size, age, sex and marital status.

The field tests will precede a series of local consultative meetings, expected to start in June, on the form and content of statistics on small areas. Those statistics are helpful in planning for local needs.

The census monitor indicates that the OPCS hopes to include in the census form questions on country of birth, nationality and ethnic group; economic activity, educational and professional qualifications; the composition of families and households; and accommodation.

Questions on the number of children born to married women will be dropped from the 1981 census.

Ban on use of halls imposed by five councils

From John Chatteris

Mr Colin Barnett, secretary of the north-west regional council of the TUC, who has organized opposition to recent National Front meetings in Greater Manchester, has received assurances from five local authorities that they will not let public buildings to the National Front in future. They are the boroughs of St Helens, Bury, Rochdale, Knowsley and Sefton.

A letter from Rochdale council to Mr Barnett says it is resolved to decline requests for accommodation in building under its control by "all extremist political parties" in view of the risk of disorder and damage. It considers that the National Front come within that category.

The borough of Knowsley told Mr Barnett that it had agreed to recommend that it should consider banning all proposed National Front demonstrations in the borough, on the ground that they might aggravate community relations.

Lancashire County Council, however, said it did not consider it appropriate to place any embargo on the use of premises.

Doctor and solicitor cleared of fraud plot

Dr Barrington Spencer Cooper, aged 54, of Lister House, Wimpole Street, London, and Mr Louis Sydney de Menezes, aged 54, a solicitor of Hall Farm Close, Stanmore, were acquitted at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday, on the direction of Mr Justice Talbot, of having conspired to defraud a Mrs Margaret Misroch by falsely representing medical and legal expenses incurred on her behalf.

Also on the judge's direction, the jury found Dr Cooper not guilty of conspiracy with the solicitor and two former CID officers, Peter Gerald Shemming, aged 51, a clerk, of Church Road, Weston, Diss, Norfolk, and Edward Lewis Fuller, aged 51, a security manager, of Crowfoot Avenue, Stanmore, to commit corruption: that Mr Shemming and Mr Fuller should receive a gift or consideration for influencing their conduct in relation to Mrs Misroch who, in November, 1965, had been charged with a criminal offence.

The trial of those three for conspiracy to corrupt and on other charges continues. All have pleaded not guilty and are on bail.

The trial, which has so far occupied 25 days, arises from events said to have followed the arrest of Mrs Misroch on a charge of unlawfully having cut diamonds. They were found when she arrived at her Hampstead home on November 20, 1965, from Sierra Leone and was arrested by officers, including Mr Shemming, then a detective inspector, and Mr Fuller, then a detective sergeant.

It has been stated that Mrs Misroch obtained uncut diamonds for about £30,000 from illicit traders in Sierra Leone. In January, 1966, the charge against her was dropped, and she became a prosecution witness in a trial in Sierra Leone.

Call for shops to advise on benefit claims

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government should use some of the £300m to £500m unclaimed benefits to set up a chain of neighbourhood benefit advice shops, a local group suggests today. The main reason why the money is not claimed, the group says, is that the benefit system is so complex that official agencies are ill-equipped to give the advice needed.

The suggestion is made in a report commissioned by the National Consumer Council but published independently by the Salford Farm Market because the council did not agree with criticisms made in its citizens' advice bureau. The report says that the common belief that bureaux have the resources and the right sort of manpower to undertake widespread benefits advice and advocacy is utterly unfounded.

No advisory network is coping with the huge demand for sound benefits advice and support, the report says. Salford Farm Market (Farm Market, 384a Great Chesham Street, Salford, M7 0UH, E1).

Woman's 100ft fall

Sheena Moyes, aged 20, of Ferryhills Road, North Queensferry, Fife, broke both legs and suffered internal injuries after falling more than 100ft from the Forth railway bridge yesterday.

Prison crowding complaint 'exaggerated'

By John Groser

The Home Office described as exaggerated a statement by counsel at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday that Holloway prison had 250 more inmates than it was designed to accommodate. It was said in court that the extra women were obliged to sleep on the floor.

Mr Kieran Rafferty made the allegations during an unsuccessful application for bail on behalf of two women committed for trial at Inner London Crown Court.

The Home Office said that during a period of particular crowding at the prison in February some remand prisoners did sleep on mattresses on the floor. On one night 13 inmates did so. On February 22, the last date that this happened, only three did.

Certified normal accommodation at Holloway is 221. There are 217 inmates at present. Extra prisoners are fitted in by putting extra beds in the cells.

Pay-bed charges up

The charges for private pay beds in the National Health Service, which by law must reflect the total estimated cost of providing hospital inpatient services, are to go up from April 1. Increases range from 7 per cent in private teaching hospitals to 22 per cent in long-stay hospitals.

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If you're in a quandary, we sympathise.

You wouldn't be the first graduate torn between, say, banking and public relations, or between the green fields of England and the tax-free salaries of the Middle East.

Equally, you may feel that you're too young to settle for the executive desks and company cars that huge corporations dangle before you.

Then again, it could be a toss-up between the Foreign Office and your dad's business.

If you honestly can't decide, our advice is to keep your options open and become an Army Officer for three years.

It's not a cop-out but a chance to clear your mind. You'd be hard-pressed to find a job that could teach you more about yourself and your fellow-men so early in life.

At the same time, you'll be putting your university education to good use. Army problems demand the kind of calm, rational thinking that comes more easily to the trained mind.

Twelve months from now you could be on the streets of Belfast. Men may shoot at you. Women may curse you. Children may throw bricks at you,

You could be in a classroom lecturing to soldiers about weapons or battle tactics. With men who are happier out of doors than sitting at desks, this is no doddle.

You could be in Germany, taking part in a NATO exercise.

You could, at a moment's notice, be flown to a trouble spot. Belize, last year, is a good example.

Wherever you are, there won't be much time to worry about your own skin. You'll have a platoon of thirty soldiers to care for. They'll expect you to be wise, brave, fit, decisive, compassionate and unstuffy.

Don't be alarmed. You won't have to display all these virtues on your first day.

At the beginning, you'll sometimes make mistakes, or feel lonely or simply bewildered. But after six months training at Sandhurst, you'll soon learn to cope.

And anyway, in a job where you can't always postpone decisions or ask the boss what to do, young men tend to mature rather quickly.

This isn't just our opinion.

Many industrialists have publicly stated that,

as far as they are concerned "the Army equips a man to make the change to business management very easily."

One went on to say "In an ideal world we would prefer our trainees to be both graduates and to have had some commissioned service experience."

Not that we think good prospects should be your only reward.

We'll pay you £3,819 a year with a parting gratuity of £1,545 tax-free after three years commissioned service.

On the other hand you might decide that you'd rather make a career of the Army.

If all this sounds attractive, write to Major G.D. MacDougall, Army Officer Entry, Dept A 40, Lansdowne House, Berkeley Square, London W1X 6AA.

Tell him something about yourself, and ask him anything you like about the Army.

Remember, you're going to spend around forty years working for your living.

It would be tragic if your most vivid memory were of a missed opportunity.



Army Officer

OPERATION JULIE

How entrepreneurs, prophets and scientists turned LSD into £sd

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Seventeen people at the heart of the manufacture and sale of millions of LSD drugs in Britain and abroad yesterday were sentenced in Bristol yesterday at the end of a unique series of trials. Doctors, chemists, and other young professional people, they translated the drug world of the 1960s into big business in the 1970s.

Not surprisingly, an air of déjà vu has hung over the proceedings. A police officer carefully translated "acid" and "tripping", two doctors discussed the pros and cons of LSD and defendants extolled its virtues in terms reminiscent of Flower Power a decade ago. The ghost of that self-conscious generation of the late 1960s seemed to be walking again.

But it is not a cultural sea-change which has been taking place in the courtroom. Rather it is the discovery that a section of that generation did not melt away into communes or conventional life but matured in the 1970s into manufacturers, entrepreneurs and prophets of the hallucinogenic.

By the time they were caught in the web of Operation Julie they had produced between 20 and 60 million LSD doses, earning hundreds of thousands of pounds. The police believe that £750,000 recovered from one laboratory may represent only a tenth of the total profit.

The exploits of this young-only one defendant was over 35 years old—mainly university educated group almost paralleled the activities of the Brotherhood of Eternal Love in the United States.

Founded by Dr Timothy Leary, apostle of LSD, to promote LSD in the early 1960s the Brotherhood was described to a Congressional investigation in 1974 as the biggest importer of cannabis and LSD in the United States. It was said the Brotherhood's activities spanned the world.

It is not known whether the Brotherhood was involved in the later stages of what happened in Britain but there is little doubt it was in at the start 10 years ago when Mr Richard Kemp was plucked from his grey life as a research

student at Liverpool University to become one of the world's best LSD chemists.

The transition came after a telephone call in the late spring of 1968 when Mr Kemp was asked by a former student colleague for advice on a quasi-legal project to make synthetic THC, the active ingredient of cannabis.

He agreed to help in the THC project which he was told was being financed by wealthy Americans and visited the project near Cambridge. It was then that he met Mr David Solomon, a friend of Dr Leary and author of a number of authoritative books on drugs.

Mr Kemp by the beginning of 1969 had tried drugs and began trying to make LSD with a makeshift laboratory in a Liverpool cellar. He told police the supply of ergotamine tartrate, the basic ingredient, was supplied by another American, who received the chemical from a magazine sent to the American Express post rest office in London.

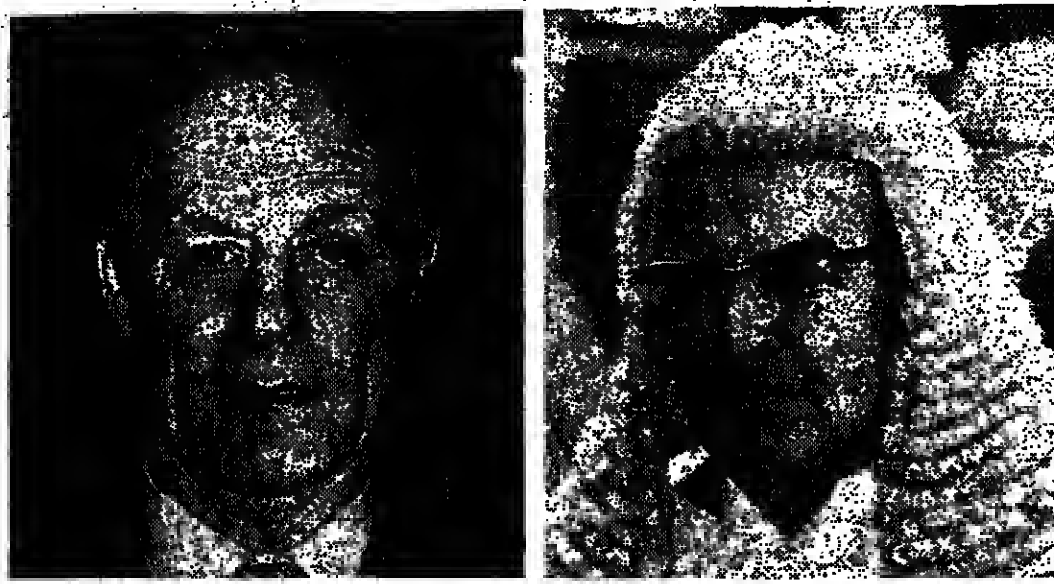
One of the curiosities of the whole story is that this man who must remain Mr X and was to figure large in later events, turns out to have been the model in advertisements for a popular chocolate bar at one time.

Mr Kemp, disillusioned with his research, was shipping further to the drugs world and was recruited to make LSD in Paris with Mr Ronald Stark, a member of the Brotherhood, and is said to have written to Mr Solomon praising his books and came over to meet him. Mr Solomon claimed later he knew nothing of the Paris connection.

But the chemist told the police Mr Solomon, Mr X and Mr Stark bargained over his services at a meeting at the Oxford and Cambridge Club in London and he was transferred like a professional footballer. The fee was a supply of LSD to Mr Solomon and Mr X at discount.

It was while working in Paris that Mr Kemp made several breakthroughs in processing the drug. At one stage later he proudly told police: "I am reluctant to describe this process since I do not wish to be seen to be encouraging anyone to undertake LSD production."

By the end of 1970 the cache was exhausted but the business



Det Supt Dennis Greenslade, head of the police team, and Mr Justice Park, the judge.

known and at the same time speeded up the process of making it. A Home Office scientist has estimated that he could make in four days what would take anyone else four weeks and still get twice the yield.

Not surprisingly, when Mr Kemp left Mr Stark in 1970 to return to Britain the American tried to persuade him to work for him. But the chemist would not return to what he felt was the existence of a hired hand.

On one of those trips he was held up by British customs for six hours but they failed to spot documents for nine kilograms of ergotamine tartrate. None the less, he brought to Britain the Brotherhood's modus operandi.

Mr Kemp's return to this country heralded the beginning of an operation lasting nearly seven years. Two hundred and forty grams of the LSD Mr Kemp had made in Paris were smuggled from Switzerland to Cambridge and hidden close to the university's golf course.

A research scientist at the university unwittingly allowed highly accurate scales in a university laboratory to be used for dividing the cache into packets which sold for £400 a gram.

By the end of 1970 the cache

was put on a regular basis and turned to actual production. A series of meetings had brought in Mr Henry Todd, a young would-be businessman breeding pigs close to Cambridge. Mr Todd had already been to prison once for cheque offences and in the course of his sentence managed to escape briefly.

Mr Kemp, Mr Solomon and Mr Todd became an ad hoc "board of directors" as the prosecution were to term them. The chemist dealt with production, Mr Solomon bought the basic ingredient and Mr Todd became the "marketing manager". Mr Russell Spenceley, who lived in Reading, was the head of distribution.

Eight kilos of ergotamine tartrate was bought which could have yielded at least 1,500 grams of LSD and between eight and 16 million doses. This basic ingredient was often bought by Mr Solomon pretending to be the representative of non-existent companies and sometimes stored in Swiss safe deposits. Mr Kemp bought one item of equipment from a member of the brotherhood living in London.

Some of the production was done in a Liverpool house. Each kilo was bought for £3,000 but the street level price was 25p a tablet and Mr Kemp's work could have earned £4 million.

Early in 1973 the partnership split up.

Mr Todd, taking the distribution network with him, now set up on his own and used Mr Munro as his chemist. Mr Brian Cuthbertson, another hopeful young businessman, joined Mr Todd at the top of the tree. Step-son of a Midlands magistrate Mr Cuthbertson had abandoned a mathematics course at Reading University and was already involved in the drugs world.

Mr Cuthbertson had been involved in various business schemes and both he and Mr Todd introduced by a mutual friend had been interested in a plan to import curries from West Africa. The first attempt at production by Mr Todd's new team took place in Chesterfield, there was another attempt at a production run somewhere in Reading and then in 1974 Mr Todd posing as Mr J. J. Ross paid more than £30,000 for a house in Seymour Road, Hampton Wick.

Up to 15 kilos of ergotamine tartrate were obtained and used in five or six production runs. Mr Todd has claimed that some of this basic ingredient was wasted and no more than five million doses were produced but the prosecution claimed perhaps three times

this amount was made, eventually selling on the streets at £1 each.

Mr Todd and Mr Cuthbertson fashioned a network of suppliers in Britain and controlled the flow of LSD to the market. Mr Cuthbertson recruited friends from his days at Reading including Mr Nigel Fielding and Mr Martin Annable.

"Drops" were organized in rural areas of the Home Counties where LSD was left to be picked up on its way to the streets or abroad. The same system was devised for money coming back along the routes. These extra drops came into the West Country and Wales and north to the Midlands. One source in the drugs world has suggested a discount was available depending on purchases: half a million for each 1,000 cost 25 to 30p each, a 100 cost 40p each and one might fetch 75p or more.

Care appears to have been taken not to swamp the market but regular amounts were leaving Seymour Road in tens of thousands and by early 1977 there were two large batches each totalling 100,000 or more.

During the course of the original partnership a system had been devised to produce different types of tablets. Some were barrel-shaped and others were like domes with the top cut off (these were called "bina pyramids" at one time because of their colour) and different dyes were used. The idea was to please the market fads and confuse the police. The practice was continued.

Export orders were handled by Mr Richard Burden, owner of a furniture business in Fulham, who passed on LSD to Amsterdam and into Europe. The orders were in tens of thousands at a price of £10 per 1,000.

While business was booming in London Mr Kemp and Christine Bott, his girl friend, were not idle. A new partnership grew up involving Mr X. The latter acted as the front for the purchase of an old mansion at Carmo in Dyfed, Wales.

After a period of delay Mr Kemp withdrew his equipment from storage and began operations in 1975. Something of a perfectionist, he kept spare equipment handy in case of breakdowns and produced 1,800 grams of LSD in one, huge production run.

Mr X was given a quarter and Mr Kemp and Dr Bott tableted doses at their cottage at Tregaron, 50 miles from the mansion. Mr Solomon has denied he was involved in sales from the run or the partnership but others alleged that Dr Mark Tcherny was recruited as a courier between Mr Kemp and Mr Solomon.

Mr Kemp had 1,200 grams of his run in the cottage and two days after his arrest the police intercepted a letter from Mr X who wrote that it was "unfortunate we have ended on a sour note after all we accomplished" and hoped they could patch up an argument to continue business.

Mr Kemp's last run could have netted Mr Solomon and himself up to £1 million each but the figure is just one of the many astronomical amounts which have been calculated. It is unlikely anyone will ever know just how much was made in the course of the various partnerships.

Certainly there were enough profits to turn Mr Todd and Mr Cuthbertson into "chic capitalists" far removed from the conventional picture of drug dealers. Neither had any visible means of support but lived very well.

Mr Todd, once a model at a London art college, kept over £200,000 in Swiss bank accounts and had a usual known assets worth nearly £350,000. He drove a Volvo, lunched at Harrods, dressed well and had a number of girlfriends. He played rugby for the London Scottish club.

When Mr Todd was searched the police found a cigarette lighter bearing the name of the ergotamine tartrate manufacturers in Switzerland with whom he had dealt: the sort of thing businesses give out to important clients.

He was hero-worshipped by Mr Cuthbertson and others in the group. Mr Cuthbertson, in his younger days a witness to a murder arising out of a drugs deal, bought a French mansion and had a usual known assets worth nearly £150,000 in French and Swiss bank accounts. The French house became the subject of enthusiastic renovation and Mr Cuthbertson spent much of his time in France.

The couple in Wales lived very simply. Dr Bott became a member of the Soil Association and the Goat Society. On the morning of New Year's Day 1977 she broadcast on BBC Wales about her goat breeding successes.

Dr Christine Bott, Mr Kemp's girl friend, was sentenced for her part in the early conspiracy in Wales. The judge said he had no doubt that she had given help and encouragement but it was in her favour that she had worked from time to time as a doctor.

David Solomon was involved, like the doctor, in the two conspiracies with Mr Kemp. The judge accepted that Mr Solomon had dropped out of the conspiracy at one point and he had not made any financial gain. Brian Cuthbertson, the judge said, had worked between 1973 and 1975 with Mr Todd to set up a first-class distribution network. He had been a thoroughly experienced operator.

Andrew Munro, Mr Todd's chemist in London, was told:

Both told the police that they believed in the virtues of LSD and said profits had been used to finance pop festivals. But they nonetheless kept up to £50,000 in Switzerland against the prospect of arrest and bought a Range Rover for £2,000 in £10 notes.

There were a number of occasions when the main organizers could have been caught out but they continued unscathed even though Home Office scientists in 1972 discovered evidence that manufacture was taking place. An exercise in monitoring LSD seized by the police and compared with seizures in the United States showed that microdots appearing in Britain were appearing sometime later across the Atlantic.

The discovery gave rise to investigations and speculation which even reached the newspapers and there were a number of reports of an LSD factory somewhere in Britain. In 1973 an American drug dealer was arrested in Canada. Mr Gerald Thomas had met Mr Kemp and Mr Solomon when he came to Britain adding the idea of making synthetic cocaine.

He took umbrage when some of his belongings were destroyed by Mr Solomon while he was in Canada and decided to tell the police what he knew. He was questioned by officers from New Scotland Yard but they could get no evidence to back his story so since Mr Kemp did not start producing until 1975, the information was stored at the Central Drugs Information Unit and most people thought that LSD had gone out of fashion. Detective Inspector Richard Lee, head of the Thames Valley police force's drug squad, began to come to a different conclusion when he noticed pop festivals were turning up as much LSD as cannabis.

The suspicion grew stronger when a second informant working undercover in Reading was offered 1,000 microdots of LSD in the course of negotiations for cannabis in one of the town's public houses early in 1975. The deal for the cannabis went ahead but the dealer was asked to wait a few days. He disappeared to Wales where he was arrested and Mr Lee sent two officers down.

Mr Lee by now knew of the allegations made in Canada and in Wales the two officers came across Mr Kemp's Range Rover parked in a police station. The vehicle was there because he had been involved in a traffic accident. The wife of a rector had been killed and the two policemen searched it. Dr Kemp had tried to clean away any incriminating evidence but the policemen found six pieces of paper. Together they spelt the name of a chemical used for making LSD.

A few months later Thames Valley was asked to help with a drugs problem in Chipping Norton, Wiltshire, and they were led to a dealer who offered a supply of 10,000 LSD doses a week. The dealer was connected to Mr Kemp and the police began to gather the size of the network they had accidentally come across.

Discussions were held with the Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers and Mr Lee argued for a multi-force operation. In February 1976 the resources of 10 police forces were combined in Operation Julie, which will eventually cost more than £400,000.

Mr Lee was in operational charge and Detective Superintendent Dennis Greenslade, deputy commander of Number Seven regional crime squad, was appointed executive director. Under them was a team of 26 officers who were experienced in undercover work at pop festivals and they were given a crash course in surveillance.

Within a short time the police were sure of Mr Kemp's involvement and watched him as he worked on his operation. Fourteen officers stayed at rudimentary farmhouse and another house to keep observation on both the mansion and the cottage. The officers often lived roughly, watching the mansion from a desolate hillside.

Inside the building they found evidence that LSD had been produced but it was decided to take a risk, pay out the line and see what else could be caught. Mr Lee visited the United States and liaised with the Drug Enforcement Agency. The team looked at the information given by the American experts in Canada, his threats of extradition delayed Mr Kemp and noticed that a "Henry" was mentioned. This man lived at an address in London, which the American got slightly wrong, and had been convicted of a drug offence in Cambridge.

Two policemen checked the records of six courts in Cambridge.

Mr Kemp told him: "You were not inspired to make LSD by any other motive than that you found an easy way to make money."

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bridge going back time without any luck. Then a officer searched through a on drugs which gave Mr name and a conviction at tenham.

The case concerned a to which had been stopped. Mr Todd's conviction in 1970 was quashed on appeal in a famous test case and one of the parties in the van was Mr Solomon's daughter—who was charged at all which was quashed on appeal.

By June, 1976, they knew Mr Todd but not his significance. Watching his accommodation address they saw him leave a telephone number which was traced. They were still thinking in terms of laboratory and for a while senior officers began to wonder about the cost and there was discussion about ending investigations.

But in October Mr Todd started ordering chemicals and glassware from a firm near Huddersfield in Yorkshire. The pseudonym of J. J. Ross was uncovered. Chances revealed orders with various false names back to 1974.

The police still thought it must be for Mr Kemp, who was identified as a chemist and was seen going into Seymour Road. Early in March Home Office scientists definitely identified two different types of microdots from two different laboratories.

The time was approaching when the Seymour Road factory began to close down. The police had to decide how to arrest: the team's files were 80,000 entries. It was decided that on a list of priorities, one of the first to be tackled in the police would be the microdots, which were said to be well-known figures, were excluded.

In March material from Seymour Road was dumped when a car was used to transport for sale. The milk was carried at Seymour Road, the police thought Mr Todd and Mr Cuthbertson were about to fly to the Bahamas and so they decided to strike there first.

They may have acted prematurely to arrest a few days earlier Mr Todd had given his car and picked up police radio messages on his radio. He went on to keep an appointment, discussing an incident in a Kensington police station while the police waited.

There had also been a number of other visits to Wales. The accident had been Mr Kemp's security camera and delayed his production of a second batch. It was said by Mr Solomon, who was questioned about LSD in March 1975, Dr Bott found a picture of her and a goat in a local newspaper had been taken away. The police but she accepted their explanation. She said that she was not working at the time the police searched her house and asked her about £150 she had with her in February 1977.

Security was so tight that the raids that in London, Metropolitan police, who had excluded from Operation Julie, were not allowed to go on until the last moment. Across the country 800 officers from 16 police forces and 16 regional crime squads swooped on March 26 and March 27, arresting over 120 people.

Special equipment was used to search for LSD and at Seymour Road 250 grams were found. Mr Munro had been using an expensive version of the police equipment to make sure his laboratory was clean and the police used this device. Three officers, who were said to be "carried on" during the search and were taken to hospital.

Caches of LSD were found in various places and then in last year one of the defendants revealed to the police the 10 grams hidden by Mr Kemp. Other caches may still exist from Seymour Road.

Mr X travelled across Europe and made his way back to the United States. There are now plans to extradite him. Mr Stark, a supposed production in Paris, was found in London as a base for selling ergotamine tartrate and was legally to the United States until 1975. He is now in prison in Italy.

The member of the brotherhood who was said to be Mr Kemp's equipment in London is still a large and living part of time in Britain. He, too, was involved in sending ergotamine tartrate to the United States.

One mystery remains to be solved in court: the source of Operation Julie pushed the price of LSD on the streets to £8 a dose. Last week it cost £8 a dose in London for a dose or £40 per thousand. Somebody else had a vacuum or a rare hidden cache been tapped?

"It is a disaster that it should have allowed yourself to be ensnared in a crime of the scale and for £15,000 which is never received."

After dealing with the participants in the conspiracy the judge turned to the group of defendants who took part in the distribution. Russell Spenceley was described as a valuable member of the operation. Nigel Fielding had been "near the centre of the conspiracy", handling more than a million LSD doses. Martin Annable, the judge said, led to the police and in a witness box but the judge accepted that Mr Annable had not been the primary general for the whole operation but was cashier for Cuthbertson.

Mr Justice Park described Richard Burden as the "heart of the Holland line", involved in exports.

Leading article, page 1

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In association with the Scottish Economic Planning Department and the Welsh Office.

Handwritten signature: J. J. Ross

PARLIAMENT, March 8, 1978

Indiscriminate sale of council houses causes some concern

House of Commons

Concern that some council houses are being sold indiscriminately and that local housing needs are being ignored was expressed by Mr. Reginald Freese, Minister for Housing and Construction.

Asked if he would consider banning sales of council houses by local authorities where there was a known housing shortage, Mr. Freese said: "Not at present."

He added that he would be ready to amend the general consent if circumstances warranted it.

Mr. Joseph Dean (Leeds, West, Lab.)—Some council houses are being sold at a price as low as £5,000 and to replace these houses by new ones is costing £70,000 over a 60-year repayment period.

Will he have a look at the situation in Leeds where they are still continuing to sell council houses with a waiting list of over 20,000 families?

Mr. Freese—At this stage I am rather concerned at the extent to which indiscriminate policies are being pursued in some parts of the country and will be watching the situation closely with a view to action if necessary.

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton, South, C)—Every survey done demonstrates that 80 per cent of young people want to own their own home. Are Conservative councils to understand that the Minister is threatening them that if they meet that need, they will be acted against by the Government?

Mr. Freese—He should introduce little cogent into his assessment of the needs in his area and use his good offices to get local authorities to look at the detailed pattern of housing needs and match them to their area and match their efforts to that, not to preconceived indiscriminate policies such as he is advancing.

Mr. John Owen (Gwent, South, Lab.)—Medway Borough Council is not only selling houses to sitting tenants but embarking on an advertising campaign to attract people living in flats and maisonettes that if they wish to buy houses they can obtain a transfer.

Bill giving greater security to council tenants planned

Security of tenure for council tenants was still the Government's committed policy and they intended to bring forward legislation when they could, Mr. Reginald Freese, Minister for Housing and Construction, said.

Mr. John Watkinson (West Gloucestershire, Lab.) had asked when the Secretary of State for the Environment proposed to introduce a Bill extending security of tenure to council house tenants.

Mr. Freese (Brent, East, Lab.)—As soon as we can complete the necessary consultations and a place can be found in the Government's legislative programme.

Mr. Watkinson—Security of tenure for council tenants is an issue that is not this matter and would do his best to bring forward legislation this session.

Mr. Freese—I cannot guarantee the last point, for reasons of which he will be aware, I can give the general assurance that it is still our committed policy and we intend to bring forward legislation when we can. It will not be simple legislation. The whole raises some rather complex legal and managerial questions which will have to be resolved.

Mr. Norman Tebbit (Waltham Forest, Chingford, C)—Is not

Is that consistent with the policy of selling houses to sitting tenants? It is fair to those people who have to continue living for an even longer period in unsuitable conditions because the houses they need for them and their families have been sold.

Mr. Freese—That is an important point, not only for Medway but local authorities generally. One of the considerations that we and local authorities of whatever political persuasion, have in mind in considering this matter is the extent to which the sale of council houses is a transfer of capital from the public sector to the private sector.

There is an indication in some parts of the country that if present policies are pursued indiscriminately, it will turn certain blocks of flats into ghettos for families, out of which they will not be able to move.

Mr. Hugh Ross (Opposition spokesman on housing and construction) (Harrow, Herts, C)—Will he confirm that no council will sell the house below a certain price and that with a 20 per cent discount on current market value there is a substantial capital gain to local authorities?

Will he allow local authorities to have the right to sell houses at a discount which will still show a considerable gain to the taxpayer and ratepayer and give the local authority the right to buy back the house?

Mr. Freese—When the 30 per cent discount was introduced for some local authorities, it was authorised by the House of Commons. It was a policy of selling houses at a time of steeply rising inflation in house prices. That was the reason given. That is not the position today.

The figure of 30 per cent is not strictly accurate. The 20 per cent discount is a general rule but there are some circumstances where the rule is not applied. We are looking at that.

There is plenty of evidence that the sale of council houses is a transfer of capital from the public sector to the private sector. It is not a transfer of capital from the public sector to the private sector.

Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, Lab.)—Those who owned their property in Blackgang in the Isle of Wight certainly did not think that as soon as we can complete the necessary consultations and a place can be found in the Government's legislative programme.

Mr. Freese—There are a variety of ways in which we can implement the kind of objectives we have set out under the general heading of the security of tenure. Some local authorities have already tried it over a number of years in the past. Some have tried three to five-year renewable leases.

Others are embarking on co-ownership of housing or tenants' management or in some cases tenants' ownership.

There is no single way forward but a variety of ways and we will pursue them.

Accusation that Tories tell councils not to build

In the past year, investment by manufacturing industry in new building increased by 15 per cent, Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment (Tower Hamlets, Stepney and Poplar, Lab.) said.

Mr. Anthony Durant (Reading, North, C) had earlier asked what proposals he had to boost construction industry output.

Mr. Shore—The £800m of additional public expenditure which has been allocated in the past year for the period up to 1980 will provide a considerable level of public sector demand for the construction industry. This will certainly assist in restoring the industry's confidence.

Mr. Durant—Following a number of townships in the Berkshire area there is still no confidence in the future of the industry. Will the Minister take three simple steps to restore confidence: first, drop the proposal to nationalise this industry; second, rescind the Community Land Act; and third, look at planning procedures to encourage the industry?

Mr. Shore—The first two questions are wholly irrelevant. I am only too willing to examine planning procedures so that we can encourage the industry.

Mr. Kenneth Lewis (Rusland and Stamford, C)—The depression in this industry is going to cause great problems for skills in the future because young people are not getting the apprenticeships needed.

Mr. Shore—This is a serious matter. We are concerned to encourage the industry and the various public sectors of industry, to maintain the right number of people in training for the future of the industry. Will the Minister take three simple steps to restore confidence: first, drop the proposal to nationalise this industry; second, rescind the Community Land Act; and third, look at planning procedures to encourage the industry?

Mr. Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C)—If a nationalised construction industry breaks the pay code the Secretary of State is claiming the right to break the main contract. That is a breach of contract. Is that the way to bring confidence to the industry? (Conservative cheers.)

Mr. Shore—I discussed this matter with representatives of the industry as recently as February 28. There is a problem in relation to sub-contractors. These matters are still under discussion between the industry and the CBI.

Mr. Peter Barry (Rother Valley, Lab.)—It would be simpler and less controllable if Opposition MPs were to encourage Conservative local authorities to engage in a higher level of construction than the present deplorable level.

Mr. Shore—Entirely agree. This is a problem in the whole area of housebuilding, particularly local authority housebuilding, where there is deliberate discrimination against the private sector. (Labour cheers.) Do not let us hear any more about stability from Mr. Heseltine.

At least part of the climate of confidence is reflected in industrial investment. In the past year investment in manufacturing industry in new building increased by 15 per cent.

Mr 'Chancellor' Ridley presents his budget proposals

It was urgent to bring Britain back to the growth of the last stagnation and inertia by cutting taxation, Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury, C) said when he presented his Budget proposals to the House of Commons.

Mr. Ridley, in the tradition of Chancellors bringing in their Budgets, brought his Budget into the Chamber in a dispatch box—He even sipped the customary drink during his speech. However, after a short break, he continued his speech.

Mr. Ridley said that before he revealed the details of his Budget proposals he would outline the background in which they had been prepared. This was the thirteenth annual Budget and it was a success story and it was likely to be a success story.

They were told that the balance of payments situation was improving. The surplus on the current account of £1,050m for the whole of 1977 had been more than wiped out by the loss of £1,730m in January. As a result, the balance of payments had been brought back to a surplus of £1,320,000,000 had been run up since 1974 would be a record of being unimpaired.

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despite the fact that the growth of the economy is running well above target.

The rate of inflation would either be measured quarterly or quarterly on a rolling basis. The Chancellor of the Exchequer might even cut VAT again as he did to get it down to 4.5 per cent in 1974. Even that rate of inflation was higher than most of Britain's overseas competitors, and they would be hectoring us for it.

Mr. Ridley said that before he revealed the details of his Budget proposals he would outline the background in which they had been prepared. This was the thirteenth annual Budget and it was a success story and it was likely to be a success story.

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WEST EUROPE

Ministers try to stem strong left-wing tide in ancient French capital of Bourges

Charles Hargrove
Bourges, March 8
The solid and politically unimpaired bourgeois of Bourges, at one time the capital of France, have not yet recovered from the shock of the personal quarrels and political quarrels which have torn the municipal council apart in the last year.

They might have headed the way of the presidential elections three years before. M. Mitterrand, the candidate of the left, won by a head over M. Giscard d'Estaing, in this bastion of establishment. Yet one wonders whether they have learned their lesson.

M. Jean-François, the handsome and energetic mayor of 49, who is trying to hold the party seat for the Government, occasionally allows his optimism to be led over by doubt.

He is a man of the old city, with its magnificent cathedral and its quaint streets where time appears to stand still. It is also the site of a modern industrial estate, and other industries with a strong left-wing

tradition. In the 1920s it returned to Parliament one of the country's first Communist members.

Today, having conquered the town hall, the left thanks the seat, held for 27 years by M. Raymond Borsé, the outgoing Republican deputy who is nearly 80, is at last within its grasp.

M. Deniau is State Secretary for Foreign Affairs in the present Government. "The moderate, middle-of-the-road voters here complain about everything," he told me in the 10-seater ministerial aircraft which flew us out to Bourges with Mme Simone Veil, the Minister of Health, coming to give him the benefit of her impressive support.

"Some of them say they will vote left because they are fed up with paying taxes and with bureaucracy. I tell them there will be much more of both if the left gets in, but they don't seem to believe it."

"My job is to win the five to six points we lost to the left in 1977," he adds. "It is not easy. The Communist-dominated council has avoided the errors of the one at Riom, which has made itself thoroughly unpopular by its initiative. Here in Bourges, the Communist Party machine has already got its grip on all the ramifications of municipal administration."

Later, addressing a public meeting in Bourges, attended by about 1,000 people, M. Weinstock declared to loud cheers that he was against the common programme of the left,

they would do so because they wanted to avoid trouble.

He denied that the opposition parties had a "monopoly of the left". There were lots of good socialists in the Government coalition parties and the fact that France was so well developed socially and had so little real poverty proved it.

He estimated that the average working married couple had a minimum income of 5,000 francs (£540) a month and that a household with one breadwinner must, with social benefits, have at least 3,500 francs (£380) a month to spend.

The fact might be that the French like a change. However, according to an opinion poll published in the socialist weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur*, although they wanted a change, they would prefer not to be governed by the leaders of the left but by "your humble servant".

Somewhat mischievously he pointed out that whereas M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, had been in the forefront of politics for many years, he himself had been involved for only about 18 months.

M. Barre refused to be drawn on to subjects beyond his job. He had not the first idea what was in the mind of the Communist Party. He really did not know if the President would or should address the nation again before the elections. He was only the Prime Minister.



Mme Simone Veil: Described as "the only man in the Government".



M. Deniau: "You do not reduce bureaucracy by recruiting 200,000 civil servants."

not for reasons of right or left but "because it's a bad programme, which does not meet our problems, which are inflation, unemployment and bureaucracy".

Mme Veil, who was once described as "the only man in the Government", and remains a firm favourite in the popularity stakes of opinion polls, was ahead of the party leaders, is not standing herself in these elections; but she vows the country indefatigably supporting the candidates.

Addressing the meeting, she did not wander into the electoral generalities and promises of which people have had more than enough. She told her audience what the Govern-

ment had done for women, the family and old people, and talked about the "health revolution" in France in recent years.

The social budget of the nation was larger than the state budget, she emphasized. But social policy was a choice. "One cannot do everything at the same time: double old age pensions, raise family allowances, increase health benefits, and rebuild outdated hospitals."

The Government's policy took into account that the social, which Frenchmen and women most cherished was the family—as opinion polls had shown.

Concorde wins cooperation award

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, March 8

Concorde is the winner of this year's annual Whitbread award for Franco-British cooperation. The award was presented today at a luncheon in Paris to M. Gilbert Cormery, research director of the aircraft division of Aerospatiale in Toulouse, and Dr W. J. Strang, technical director of the Anglo-French Concorde organization.

Dr Strang, in a speech of thanks, described the Concorde as "the greatest single advance ever made in the history of aviation" achieved despite technical difficulties and political obstacles.

M. Cormery said that what had been achieved with Concorde led him to think that if France and Britain worked together on a new project, and endowed themselves with a good industrial organization, the future will be theirs. "American industry was not an enemy to be fought, but a 'rather overpowering force' to be balanced by another force of sufficient weight."

Lord Duncan-Sandys, joint president of the Franco-British Council, said that as Minister of Transport in 1959, he had some difficulty in persuading the British Government to go ahead with the Concorde adventure. "I said I was certain of one thing: if the French and British aerospace industries did not have the courage to take the step, they could be regarded as written off."

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'minority train' the French elections

Barre has no trouble spotting the googlies

Ian Murray
March 8
Calm and confident M. Barre, the Prime Minister, faced British and American journalists in his official capacity this afternoon to them that France had the sense not to choose a moment of the left in the elections.

Someone who wears his political past so consistently on his sleeve, the Minister stroked away questions bowled towards him practised ease. He was not to pick out the googly at the journalists' mouth, he said, it was already there.

He spent most time dismantling arguments put forward by the left, and the right, that it was time for a change. "There is a French tradition to demand inflation," he said. "But he had been made Minister in the first place to sort out the economic situation and he, more than anyone, knew that inflation was at its worst. Those who said inflation today were ignorant or electioneers."

He was quite unimpressed by the left's claim that if the left had a majority of votes in the first round, it would be the same people who voted in the second round, and if they did, they would correct their vote in the two rounds, then

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One in four in W Germany is now over 60

From Our Correspondent
Berlin, March 8

Professor Volkmar Bohlau, president of the Kuratorium of Seniors, said in Karlsruhe today that more attention should be paid to the steadily growing numbers of old West Germans. Every fourth West German is now over 60. A century ago the average life-span was 48 years for men and 52 for women but they can now expect to live for 70 and 75 years respectively, he said.

state and the integrity of our justice can only be doubted by those who are misinformed or in bad faith," he said.

The lawyers see the trial as a test case for colleagues in the difficult position of having to defend terrorists.

The margin between committed defence of one's client and becoming his accomplice is already narrow, Dr Wagner pointed out.

It is even more difficult when it comes to clients who demand lawyers who share their political views, and are more or less part of their organization.

The interest in the trial is in danger of being diverted over the issue of body searches to which lawyers, journalists and members of the public are submitting on entering a terrorist trial.

The searches have been increasingly humiliating in recent months since lawyers have often been made to take their trousers off for closer searches.

Six defence lawyers in the trial of Irmgard Möller, accused of murdering American soldiers, have refused to participate in the case in protest.

Dr Wagner recommended colleagues and journalists to use common sense and to co-operate in reasonable searches. But he insisted that they must not offend a person's dignity and emphasised that everyone participating in the trial, including the judges, should submit to the same kind of search. Especially tight controls of defence lawyers only were unacceptable, he said.

Working dinner for Callaghan

Diplomatic
London

Callaghan will fly to Bonn today for a "working dinner" with Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, it was said yesterday. They were to meet at six o'clock to discuss economic and international issues, either of them has time longer meeting. Mr. Callaghan suggested a dinner in Bonn today.

Dissonant trial a test case for W German justice

Archbishop
London

West German lawyers today defended the judicial system against the charge of being dissonant from abroad as their controversial colleague, Croissant, the former Meinhof defence lawyer, did to go on trial.

Dr. Croissant, accused of running an action network between Baader-Meinhof terrorism and comrades out-

trial, in the courts as a high security trial, has become a kind of case for German justice, where Herr Croissant's trial last summer, the lawyer has become a of the left-wing, which that he is being persecuted for defending his

tradition to West German November aroused protests and allegations would not receive a fair trial.

Particular a recent anti-legislation, including a to exclude from trials suspected of conspiring for clients, brought allegations that West Germany was using "Nazi methods."

Imut Wagner, the president of the Lawyers' Association, said a press conference yesterday that studies have shown that West German legislation defence lawyers is to that in other free countries. Especially tight controls of defence lawyers only were unacceptable, he said.

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WEST EUROPE

Italian public opinion focused on opening of Red Brigades trial

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 8

Public opinion throughout Italy will be focused on the opening due in Turin tomorrow of the trial of alleged founders and leaders of the Red Brigades, the most formidable of the groups of armed terrorists.

Among the 49 defendants is Renato Curcio, who describes himself as "a militant of the revolutionary left".

The trial has twice been postponed, once on procedural grounds and then, last spring, on clear grounds of intimidation. Lay judges could not be found to serve on the bench after the murder of the head of the Turin lawyers' association.

Tomorrow is the third attempt and much more than a trial is at stake. The court of assizes has to show that Italian justice can bring allegedly dangerous terrorists to trial despite the atmosphere of fear they have created by the kidnappings, murders and wounding with which they claim responsibility.

It is only a matter of months since Turin witnessed one of the

murders ascribed to the Red Brigades, that of Signor Carlo Casalegno, deputy editor of *La Stampa*, Turin's leading newspaper.

The court still has a problem of choosing more lay judges. They sit on the bench with two professional judges and take part in deciding the verdict and the sentence.

So far 11 have been found. The law requires six to sit on the bench and others to act as reserves, follow the trial and take over from any of the six who are forced to give up the hearings.

The trial will be held in the converted hall of a barracks and some 2,000 extra police are said to have been moved into the city.

The crimes with which the 49 are charged include three kidnappings, one of a judge, and armed conspiracy. The aim of the Red Brigades, according to the charge sheet, is "the suppression and violent subversion of the economic, social and political order of the state".

There seems no doubt that it will open, unless some unexpected event occurs during the night. But there may be a request from the defence to transfer it to another city.

Dutch MPs reject use of neutron bomb

From Our Correspondent
Amsterdam, March 8

The Lower House of the Dutch Parliament this morning adopted a motion opposing deployment of the neutron bomb and asking the Government to inform the United States and the other Nato allies of its stand.

Mr van Agt, the Prime Minister, opposed the motion, introduced by the small left-liberal Democrats-66 Party, but it was carried with the support of members of Mr van Agt's own Christian Democratic Party.

The Christian Democrats, a majority in the centre-right Government coalition, are known to oppose the neutron bomb. But the Cabinet accepted the view of conservative Liberal Party ministers that Holland should neither support nor oppose.

Mr van Agt stated during the debate that while the Government would attempt to keep the neutron bomb from being introduced, it could not, at this stage of the consultations with Nato partners, take a position for or against. Introduction of the new bomb would also be dependent on the results of arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union.

Today's vote will not, however, modify the Cabinet's stand, as it is not binding on the Government.

US Army big-spenders reduced to poor relations by sickly dollar

GI blues in Germany

From Patricia Clough
Stuttgart, March 8

At American bases in West Germany the 180,000 Army personnel and their families are adjusting painfully to the unfamiliar role of poor relations. The dollar's nosedive has transformed the image of the GI in just over a year from the carefree big spender to the hard-up serviceman.

With the dollar now valued at less than DM2, compared in the previous DM4, West Germany is beginning to be regarded as a hardship post.

But reports that West Germans are helping out with food parcels appear, after extensive checks, to be highly exaggerated, although some landlords have been reducing rents, making GI tenants wonder if the rents were tailored to their dollar incomes in the first place.

The worst affected are lower ranking staff who transport and house their families at their own expense.

Horizons have shrunk to army compounds as families are obliged to shop cheaply in the PX, drink at army bars and

use army facilities. Some units are helping by allowing dependants to eat in the canteens.

Debits have become a common problem and the army is arranging financial counselling.

At the same time the difficulties have created a spirit of togetherness reminiscent of wartime Britain. "People have come together, everybody is helping everyone else, people care more and are getting together to work out their problems," a social worker at Mannheim says.

Many Germans are inviting GIs and their families for meals and helping with baby sitting. Bachelors report that German girls are happy to share the cost on dates. "Not that that reduces my embarrassment," one soldier said.

The army is making efforts to relieve the problem. Living allowances are being increased and more soldiers are being allowed to keep their families at the army's expense. Cheap travel is being organized, although half the point was to get away from the army. An emergency loan service is helping many servicemen out of temporary difficulties.

Arab financier kidnapped in Milan street

Milan, March 8.—Mr David Reissah, a Syrian-born businessman who heads a Milan-based financial firm, was kidnapped during the night by four masked bandits on a street here, the police reported today.

The bandits seized Mr Reissah, who is 65, near his house. He resisted his kidnappers, who fired machine-gun volleys in the air before driving off with him.

Meanwhile, in Rome, police announced that early today kidnappers released Signor Sergio Sonnino, the owner of a building supply company. His family has paid a big ransom for his release. He was found chained to a tree.

Madrid move to force early local elections

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, March 8

The Spanish Socialist Workers' Party has withdrawn from the parliamentary committee studying the draft constitution in a manoeuvre to induce the Government to call municipal elections without delay.

The Centre Democratic Union, the party of Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, hinted recently that it would put off municipal elections until after a constitution had been approved.

Opinion polls suggest that the left would do well in early elections. The Communists believe that they will gain more votes if they are able to claim credit for a new constitution.

OVERSEAS

A sweeping reshuffle of top posts in Romania

From Dossa Trevisan
Belgrade, March 8

In a sweeping reshuffle of top Communist Party and Government posts, President Ceausescu has released seven ministers and four out of 10 party Central Committee secretaries from their jobs.

Among the most important changes is the promotion of Mr Ilie Verdet, regarded as the closest associate of Mr Ceausescu, to the post of First Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

The appointment comes after a fresh commitment by the President to continue his crash industrialization programme which, in effect, puts off any meaningful improvement in the low living standards of Romanians for another five years at least.

The purpose of the reshuffle is said to be to strengthen the national economy by placing men who enjoy the President's personal confidence in key Central Committee positions.

Mr Cornel Burlica, until now the Central Committee secretary in charge of ideology, who is also regarded as being close to the President, has been appointed to head the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Both he and Mr Verdet have held top posts in the party's Political Executive Committee. However, in the reshuffle, they both lost their party posts.

Whether this means a political demotion is not yet clear.

Mr Ceausescu is clearly encountering serious problems in putting into practice his ambitious economic programme, under which Romania is to reach the level of a medium-developed industrialized country by the end of the next five-year plan. Mr Verdet and Mr Burlica appear to have been given a key role in this work.

Although both Mr Verdet and Mr Burlica have now lost their party posts, this may not necessarily mean a demotion. Romania is, however, a communist country where a party position has, until now at least, carried more weight than a Government post.

At the same time several new appointments have been made to the Political Executive Committee.

Mr Virgil Cazacu has been made secretary of the Central Committee, presumably in succession to Mr Burlica, and a Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Emil Dragulescu, a Deputy Prime Minister and member of the Political Executive Committee, and Mr Florea Dumitrescu, Minister of Finance, have lost their posts.

Mr Dragulescu is to become Minister of Sport, while Mr Dumitrescu has been demoted to a minor administrative job.

Recently three Cabinet ministers were suspended for unspecified irregularities, believed to have been related to bribery and corruption, and the Minister of Mining and several other officials in the mining industry have lost their posts after a miners' strike in the Jiu valley.

Carter move expected against miners today

From David Goss
Washington, March 8

The United States Administration was expected to seek a court order tomorrow to force the country's 160,000 striking miners back to work. A special board of inquiry appointed by President Carter began today to question the parties to the dispute.

The three-member board headed by Mr John Gentry, a Washington lawyer and arbitrator, was taking evidence from miners' leaders as well as mine owners' representatives. Its report will probably be ready tonight and will be presented to the Administration right away so that a federal injunction against the strikers can be sought under the terms of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Fears are growing in many coal-mining states that many miners will not obey an order to return to work, as Mr Arnold Miller, president of the United Mine Workers of America, has predicted. Mr John Dalton, the Governor of Virginia, has declared a state of emergency and ordered more state police into mining areas.

Nevertheless, a hopeful White House statement said there was "a belief and a presumption on the part of the Government that people will obey the law".

If this optimism proves unfounded, the Administration may then consider Government seizure of the mines with the authorization of Congress. Mr Carter, however, continues to insist that he has ruled this out.

Miners' leaders have their men would return to work under a Government takeover because they would then be working for operators. Moreover, Government might well pay them more than regular employers.

One disadvantage of a federal seizure is that it would be longer to implement than invocation of the Taft-Hartley Act, which does not require congressional approval.

Mr Carter's strategy in solving his first domestic crisis is clearly planned on the basis that as coal supplies dwindle, public pressure will push the miners back to work.

But other trade unions, though their members may be laid off because of energy shortages, have shown no signs of deserting the miners.

Indeed, the powerful United Auto Workers union has contributed about \$2m (about £1m) to a special relief fund to help miners' families suffering from a loss of income over the past three months.

Energy breakthrough: After many weeks of stalemate in the Senate, President Carter's energy commission on programme appears to be peering again. For the first time, a majority of senators in the energy committee are supporting a compromise on future prices for natural gas.

President Assad promises to build up Syrian forces

Damascus, March 8.—President Assad today pledged Syria to a continued defence build-up and close ties with the Soviet Union.

Speaking after being sworn into office for a second seven-year term as President, he said Syria placed more importance on restoring the full rights of the Palestinians than on regaining its own territory in the Israel-occupied Golan Heights.

In a clear reference to President Sadat, he promised to reject all forms of "begging" for a Middle East settlement. He apparent reference to American mediation efforts, he said Syria would not give in to what he termed "intimidation or persuasion".

General Assad said: "Due to current conditions in the region and the incessant threats from a greedy enemy claiming our lands, it seems that a defence build-up is of extreme importance for the defence of our homeland and nation."

"The numbers of our armed forces have increased and equipment has improved, and this will in all likelihood continue both qualitatively and quantitatively."

General Assad returned from a visit to the Soviet Union last month with a promise of increased Soviet military and economic aid—UPI.

Moab, brilliant writes from Tel Aviv: Israel claimed today

that Syrian-controlled guerrillas were operating 10 miles from the Israel border, a violation of an agreement which ended the fighting in southern Lebanon last year.

Professor Yigal Yadin, acting Defence Minister, said in the Knesset that the Government was dealing with the invasion "in the appropriate manner". He gave no details.

Michael Knipe writes from Jerusalem: Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said today that he accepted Security Council resolution 242, which calls for a withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the 1967 war. He said it is clear that there are distinct differences between the Israeli Government and both Egypt and the United States over the interpretation of the resolution.

Mr Begin maintained that there was no contradiction between the terms of resolution 242 and his Government's offer of only limited autonomy for the West Bank. Egypt contends that Israeli withdrawal is required from all territories occupied in 1967.

Geneva, March 8.—Mr Alfons Ahterhorn, Assistant Secretary of State, ending a Middle East shuttle which he called "useful", stopped over in Geneva today on his way back to Washington for a meeting with Prince Sand and Foreign Minister.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister—UPI.

UPI.

Local polls hearten Danish Government

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, March 8

Denmark's local elections yesterday have confirmed the growing strength of the governing Social Democratic Party and the Conservatives. But they failed to break the trend towards non-party groups in the 275 municipalities and 14 county electorate divisions.

Both the non-party groups and the anti-tax Progress Party movement roughly maintained their strength.

Compared with the results of

the parliamentary election last year, the Conservatives gained most, winning 6 per cent to take 14.4 per cent of the overall vote. The Social Democrats advanced by 1.3 per cent to 38.3 on this basis.

The anti-tax Progress Party recorded a gain in terms of mandates but fell by nearly 6 per cent to 8.9 per cent of the overall vote compared with the last parliamentary election. The opposite applied to the Liberal Party, long considered the leading opposition group,

which was a loser in terms of mandates but emerged 4.6 per cent stronger at 16.6 per cent on the parliamentary comparison basis.

Although it is not possible to draw a direct comparison between local and parliamentary elections, the returns have sparked speculation that Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Prime Minister, may decide to try and benefit by an early parliamentary election. However, he firmly denied any such intention today.



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From London	Leaves	Arrive	Aircraft	Flight
Boston	1010	1215	747 (ex Tu/Wu)	PA055
Detroit	1010	1535	747 (ex Tu/Wu)	PA055
Detroit	1100	1625	747 (We)	PA101
Honolulu	1345	0015	747	PA125
New York	1100	1335	747	PA101
New York	1415	1650	747	PA001
Portland	1345	1735	747	*PA123
San Francisco	1345	1900	747	PA125
Seattle	1345	1515	747	PA125
Washington	1140	1500	747	PA107

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Mechanism of lifting UN sanctions on Rhodesia

By Our Diplomatic
Correspondent

Mandatory sanctions, in the form which they exist today, were imposed against Rhodesia on May 22, 1966, by a unanimous vote of the Security Council.

The resolution, urging all members of the United Nations to render moral and material assistance to the people of Southern Rhodesia in their struggle to achieve freedom and independence, incorporated without substantial change the four mandatory provisions—a trade boycott, a ban on Rhodesian passports and withdrawal of air services—proposed in the original draft submitted by Britain.

There was considerable opposition among Conservative MPs to the new sanctions, and it required a severe admonishment from Lord Caradon, Britain's representative at the United Nations, before the Lords finally accepted the Government's order.

International action has been taken over the years to tighten sanctions and stop up loopholes, but there has always been one gaping hole in the South African Pretoria has seen to it that Rhodesia has had the one indispensable commodity to keep its economy running—oil. Recently the United Nations has been examining ways of cutting off this supply.

Lifting sanctions would require a further resolution by the Security Council, the precise form of which cannot at this stage be foreseen. In any event, given all the political uncertainties in reaching a settlement in Rhodesia, it seems unlikely to arise for some time yet.

When such a resolution is put forward, however, it will require nine affirmative votes out of the Security Council total membership of 15, and no negative vote from any of the five permanent members.

In practice, the British Parliament can decide at any time to end sanctions if it so chooses. Many Conservatives are indeed urging this course now.

The sanctions approved by the United Nations are mandatory in the sense of putting an obligation on the member states to carry them out. Breaches are reported to the sanctions committee, and so far as is possible followed up with the countries concerned.

But the sovereignty of Parliament obviously overrides any kind of vote by the United Nations. In the last resort, the Government could end sanctions—or let them lapse next year—and answer whatever objections might be made at the United Nations with the argument that Rhodesia is a British responsibility.

Louis Heren, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Arafat opponent dies after Lebanon ambush

Beirut, March 8.—A Palestinian dissident accused of trying to overthrow Mr Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), died today from wounds suffered in an ambush in eastern Lebanon yesterday.

Abu Sayed, 40, was identified with reports that four guerrillas died when loyalists and dissidents in the largest Palestinian guerrilla group, Al Fatah, clashed near Tyre, in southern Lebanon.

He escaped from Fatah prison in Beirut in July, and hijacked a Kuwaiti airline before turning himself over to Syrian authorities.

Guatemala poll recount ordered

Guatemala City, March 8.—The Guatemalan electoral board yesterday ordered a full recount of Sunday's national election results because of widespread allegations of fraud.

With about a third of the votes for President counted, the results were: General Romeo Lucas Garcia, a conservative, 230,532 votes; Colonel Enrique Peralta Azurdia, a former President and also conservative, 230,020; General Ricardo Peralta Mendez, centre-right Christian Democrat, 165,000. The last demanded a recount—AP.

Soviet women appeal to the Queen

From Michael Bioyon
Moscow, March 8

As the Soviet Union celebrated International Women's Day, a group of 22 Jewish women attempted a public demonstration near the Kremlin today against the Soviet authorities' refusal to grant them exit visas to Israel.

A large group of plainclothes and uniformed police prevented them from getting to the site of their planned protest and some were escorted away.

The women gave copies of their appeal to Western correspondents in which they called on the Queen, Mrs Rosalynn Carter and Queen Juliana of the Netherlands as well as on several Jewish women's organizations to help them in their struggle to emigrate.

They said in their appeal that they had tried to deliver a pro-

test to the Supreme Soviet in October, but were thwarted by being kept under house arrest for several days.

In January they were told by the Soviet visa authorities that their cases would be "carefully reconsidered" a few weeks later, but when they telephoned the visa office they found that nothing had happened.

The promise, they went on, was probably due to the presence of a Soviet delegation in the United States at that time.

Last month it was made clear to them that no case was being reconsidered.

Thus the Soviet authorities have demonstrated again what women's rights in this country really mean.

They complained of being doomed to a life of uncertainty far from their relatives, and being unable to bring up their children in the Jewish tradi-

tion or get jobs according to their qualifications.

The Jewish women, led by Mrs Irina Medvedeva, a Russian married to an American professor who has been refused permission to join her in the United States, she has been closely identified with the Jewish emigration movement here.

It became known yesterday that the Soviet authorities have granted permission to Mrs Irina Medvedeva, a Jewish activist, to emigrate with her husband and two daughters after six years of unsuccessful applications.

Mrs Belin is a close friend of Mr Aronovitch, Secretary of the Jewish community in London, who has been in prison for almost a year, accused of being a spy for the United States. He is expected to be released soon. Mrs Belin had been expected to be a defence witness, dissident sources said.

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OVERSEAS

Ethiopian recapture of Jijiga admitted by Somali insurgents

From Charles Harrison
Addis Ababa, March 8

The Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) admitted today that its forces had withdrawn from Jijiga, the largest town they had captured in the Juba valley last week. The WSLF announced its recapture of Jijiga at the weekend, it was only today that the Somali insurgents admitted that it had been recaptured.

The WSLF said there had been a hard fighting and great destruction of property in the town and the other centres it has now evacuated, which include the village of Assele, 17 miles north of Jijiga. It said that the Somali forces had been pushed back in the town by the strength of the Ethiopian and Cuban forces, but the struggle would continue until the last man.

The WSLF said that its forces would continue the fight in the mountains and surrounding countryside. It said that the Somali forces had been pushed back in the town by the strength of the Ethiopian and Cuban forces, but the struggle would continue until the last man.

Second round of Kenya-Kenya talks in Nairobi

Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 8

Kenyan and Kenyan representatives met in Nairobi today to discuss closer relations between the two states, to replace the framework of the East African Community which collapsed last year.

The meeting was a follow-up to a meeting held in Kampala a week ago, when it was agreed that the two countries should exchange diplomatic representatives. Under the new policy, the Kenyan representative would be a member of the East African Community, while the Kenyan representative would be a member of the East African Community.

Prince of Wales visits Brazil

Our Correspondent
Rio de Janeiro, March 8

The Prince of Wales arrived in Rio de Janeiro today for an official visit to Brazil. He was greeted at the airport by the state governor, and the Brazilian Ambassador, but only a few people turned out on the streets.

The Prince of Wales arrived in Rio de Janeiro today for an official visit to Brazil. He was greeted at the airport by the state governor, and the Brazilian Ambassador, but only a few people turned out on the streets.

Mr Teng elected to head secondary institution

Our Correspondent
Peking, March 8

Chairman Teng Hsiao-ping was elected head of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the New China news agency said today.

His election gives greater credibility to the reactivation of the conference which has not functioned for 13 years. It also allows Mr Teng to take over one of the functions of the late Chou En-lai even though he has not become Prime Minister, observers said.

UN help on Chile

Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 8

The 32-nation Human Rights Commission is considering setting up a United Nations trust fund, supported by voluntary contributions, to help Chilean political prisoners or exiles and their families.

Tribal clashes and social unrest attributed to delays in reaching agreement with West

Namibia's administrator in a hurry for a settlement

From Eric Marsden
Windhoek, March 8

Delays in settling the future of Namibia (South-West Africa) were causing uncertainty among its people and aggravating economic and social problems, Judge Martinus Steyn, the Administrator General, said in an interview with The Times today.

He was commenting on the wave of violence in Katutura, a black suburb of Windhoek, which has caused 11 deaths in the past week in clashes between Ovambo tribesmen supporting the South-West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) and Hereros mostly supporting the South African Government.

The fighting has spread to other areas, including the Ovambo border region and at least another three deaths have been reported. Police reinforcements from South Africa were sent to Windhoek earlier this week.

A strike of black workers in Windhoek which started on Monday ended today and Katutura was reported to be quiet but tense. Yesterday Judge Steyn went to the township, accompanied only by two bodyguards and one policeman, and called on a crowd of 5,000 to end the violence and the strike.

Though most of the crowd were supporters of SWAPO which refuses to recognize the judge's authority, he was given an uninterrupted hearing as he warned them that further violence would not be tolerated, and that independence would be achieved by the ballot box and not by the barrel of a gun.

Spokesman for the Ovambos and Hereros accused each other of starting the trouble. An

Omambo leader said that when his people went to private firms seeking work they were told by employers: "Ask Swapo to give you a job."

Judge Steyn told me that the unrest was undoubtedly politically motivated. He did not know whether it was an attempt by Swapo to delay the calling of elections but he added: "I cannot lose sight of Sam Nujoma saying that Swapo is not interested in majority rule and that it is a revolutionary force whose aim is to seize power."

Mr Nujoma, the Swapo leader, made this statement in a television interview in New York which has been given wide coverage in South Africa. The Administrator General said he had told Mr R. F. Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, of the growing concern of people in Namibia over the delay in reaching agreement with the group of Western nations negotiating on the territory's future.

This was holding up an announcement on an election. "Everybody says there will be an election but nobody knows when, what form it will take, what form of enfranchisement or what registration of voters there will be."

Uncertainty had resulted in unemployment, especially in the private sector, and the abrogation of the pass laws had caused an influx into the towns which had aggravated the economic position.

Judge Steyn said there was common ground between South Africa and the Western nations on a target date of December 31 for an independent Namibia. He added: "We have got to

hurry up. There must be an election before then. A decision must be made in a matter of weeks."

The latest deadlock in the negotiations resulted from Mr Botha's decision to leave the New York talks on Namibia three weeks ago and fly home for consultations. He has since told Parliament in Cape Town that he regards it as unlikely that an internationally acceptable solution will be reached.

There is speculation here that plans are being made to go ahead with an internal settlement because of the West's insistence that Swapo must be party to any move towards independence. Swapo's demand for the withdrawal of South African troops and the cessation of Walvis Bay by South Africa has created a gulf which is regarded as unbridgeable.

FAO seeks aid for hungry of Sahel region

Our Correspondent
Rome, March 8

Some seven million people are suffering from malnutrition in Africa's Sahel desert region, Mr Edouard Saouma, the director-general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), said today.

The hunger in some of the region's eight countries was as bad as during the great drought there in 1973, Mr Saouma said.

"The tragedy of the Sahel threatens to become endemic unless a major recovery effort is made," he told a press conference after returning from a visit to four of the affected countries.

He appealed for more aid from richer nations, which, he said, had in the past five years given only \$500m (£250m) out of an estimated long-term need of \$7,500m.

The Sahel this year needed at least 457,000 tonnes of food but the amount so far pledged still left a shortfall of 180,000 tonnes.

Mr Saouma said the Sahel was a tragic illustration of the lack of any world-wide food security system.

Afghan President pleased with Pakistan visit

Our Correspondent
Islamabad, March 8

President Muhammad Daoud of Afghanistan ended a four-day visit to Pakistan today with only one contentious political issue outstanding between the two countries—the demand for the establishment of an independent Pathan state on the frontiers of the two countries.

At a press conference before this departure President Daoud was optimistic about the development of future relations and warm in his feelings towards Pakistan.

He said his talks with General Zia, the chief martial law administrator, had been a step forward as had been his previous meeting with him last October in Kabul.

General Zia, speaking later to reporters, described the talks as a "leap forward". He appeared to attribute their success partly to the Afghan President's meeting with political leaders of North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan who had suffered long imprisonment when Mr Bhutto was Prime Minister.

NWFP and Baluch leaders are generally favourable to Afghanistan and, in turn, receive Kabul's favours in political terms.

President Daoud rejected the idea of joining a regional cooperation development pact with Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, saying Afghanistan adhered to its non-aligned foreign policy.

But he agreed to the establishment of a joint ministerial economic commission with Pakistan.

General Zia told reporters that the trial of Mr Bhutto on charges of corruption would begin before a tribunal in prison on Saturday. He said it was necessary to hold the trial in jail for security reasons.

Although 2,400 men had to be deployed every time Mr Bhutto had been conducted from jail to the High Court in Lahore for trial on a separate charge of murder.

Rawalpindi, March 8.—The police mass arrests of followers of Mr Bhutto in Lahore today, according to reliable sources. Some estimates put the arrests at over 100.

Reuters.

Enlarged Cabinet named for Cyprus

From Our Correspondent
Nicosia, March 8

Eight days after his inauguration for a full five-year term President Kyprianou reshuffled and enlarged the Cabinet he inherited from his predecessor, the late Archbishop Makarios, when he first took over the presidency last September.

Mr Kyprianou replaced four ministers, including Mr John Christofides, who was Foreign Minister, and created three new posts to increase the size of the Cabinet from 10 to 13.

In another innovation Mr Kyprianou appointed four of his leading personalities of his centre-right Democratic Party to the Cabinet, breaking the 17-year tradition of President Makarios whose Cabinets were made up of technocrats, or non-political personalities.

The new Foreign Minister is Mr Nicos Rolandis, a company director from Nicosia, who has no previous experience either in government or foreign affairs. As the chairman of the finance committee of the Democratic Party, he was responsible for its organization after the party's creation early in 1976.

The new Cabinet is as follows:

President: Spiros Kyprianou
Finance: Andreas Pitsillides
Interior and Defence: Chrysostomos Christofides
Justice: Chrysostomos Sofianos
Health: Dr Andreas Mitiellides
Minister to the Presidency: George Jorjaniadis
Agriculture and Natural Resources: George Tomazos
Foreign Affairs: Nicos Rolandis
Commerce and Industry: Andreas Pitsillides
Communications and Works: Marinos Pitsillides
Justice: Petros Michalides
Labour and Social Insurance: Emilianos Christofides

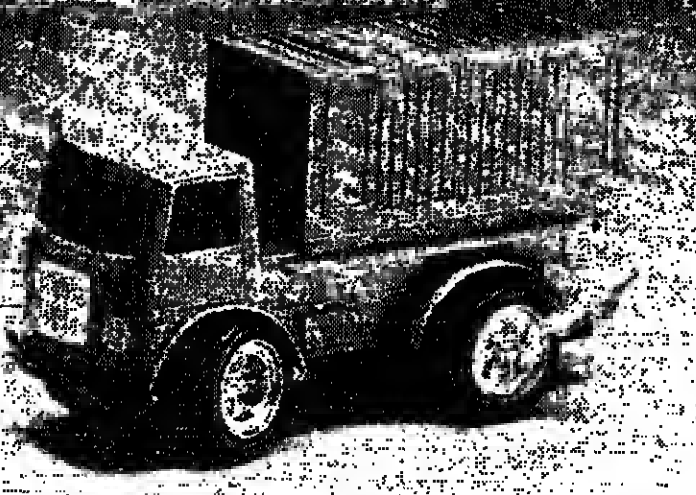
UN help on Chile

Our Correspondent
Geneva, March 8

The 32-nation Human Rights Commission is considering setting up a United Nations trust fund, supported by voluntary contributions, to help Chilean political prisoners or exiles and their families.

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A member of the National People Corporation

inquiry into Chilean exile's death

Our Correspondent
Lorencia Varas
March 8

Chilean Government is problem arising from the death of a Chilean in the United States in 1976, of Señor Letelier, a Chilean who was successfully of Defence and Foreign under the late President.

Juan Gonzalez, who is leading the investigation of the court of the Disappearance, has asked the armed forces to establish if "Juan Williams" and "Alejandro Romo" are the names used by people supposed to have travelled to the United States on official passports.

Chilean newspapers speculate on the possibility that "Juan Williams" could be an American citizen, who in March 1973, was involved in operations against the Allende Government, and was connected with the right-wing movement Patria y Libertad. His activities after that date are unknown.

Leaders of Patria y Libertad claim that he is a CIA man. The American's wife has said that he was in Chile when Señor Letelier was murdered, and affirms that he is not "Juan Williams" Rose.

Judge Juan Gonzalez has been requested to find and return the two men in the presence of the fiscal of the court of the District of Columbia.

One of the people who could establish their real identity, Señor Guillermo Osorio, director of the consular department, committed suicide last October. Some time after his death, his body was exhumed and an autopsy was carried out. The results have not been published. Señor Marcos Llibredinsky, a minister, has been appointed by the government to

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THE UN: FOR PEACE OR WAR?

debate in the Security Council on the internal settlement in Rhodesia last week in Rhodesia is significant for two principal reasons. The first is that the United Nations is an influence for good or evil upon the outcome in Rhodesia because Britain has imposed mandatory sanctions on the Security Council and is expected to get the Council approval before calling them into effect. The second is that the Security Council is an influence for good or evil upon the outcome in Rhodesia because Britain has imposed mandatory sanctions on the Security Council and is expected to get the Council approval before calling them into effect.

may seem unlikely that such additional acceptance of the settlement will find a way in the resolution put forward. Nevertheless it must be a sign of tolerance of the West towards a settlement, to be a sign of tolerance of the West towards a settlement, to be a sign of tolerance of the West towards a settlement.

TEACHERS LOSE THEIR SENSE ON PROPORTION

by the customary rules of industrial relations, as of workers who apply to arbitration are held to be reasonable. The action of the teachers who have been withdrawing from school, causing disruption for some schools and for a few, is likely to have influence on the independent arbitrators studying their case. The National Association of Teachers and the Assistant Teachers' Association have been active in support of the action, while the employers' side in the dispute, Sir Ashley Bramall, has been less than forthcoming in his support. It is clear that the teachers' definition of their duties needs to be re-examined. The fact that schools must close is a lack of them count as

WERE, BUT RIGHTLY SO

Justice Park's task is working out a range of sentences to give to the members of the conspiracy who were people of previous character, considerable and intelligence. Some possessed excellent academic and professional qualifications. They are precisely the people for whom prison is a destructive experience. It can also be argued that while probably the most dangerous of the non-drug is not in the league of harmfulness as heroin or some of the more over the purchaser is not in the same dependent state as the addict, and not at the mercy of a supplier. Taking LSD is a vicious act over which the

Nkomo who have been invited to speak, suggest that the Africans are pressing for outright condemnation. If such a resolution were carried, however, it would do more than condemn—it would implicitly endorse the guerrilla view that a solution can only be found by war.

It would be likewise unfortunate if the African members succeeded in harrying Bishop Muzorewa from speaking. Such a snub would be claimed by them as international recognition that the Patriotic Front is the sole representative, now and in future, of the Zimbabwe black population. If the Bishop speaks, he may not make many converts, but he demonstrates that the Front is not the only representative of Zimbabwe, and he shows his own people that he, too, has international standing. That matters a great deal.

The success of the internal settlement depends on great measure—perhaps decisively—on the appeal of the incoming black power, first in the interim government, and subsequently under the new constitution of Zimbabwe, to discourage further fighting and to make good the argument to the guerrillas that the war they have been waging is won. The guerrilla influence is considerable and growing, and everything that can strengthen the Bishop's voice, and that of his black colleagues, is important to lessen the violence and make early elections possible.

There are African states who privately, if not publicly, see this point. Suspicious as they are that

Smith has pulled the wool over the Bishop's eyes, and those of his colleagues, they are also despairing of their own failure to end the rivalry between Mr Nkomo's and Mr Mugabe's forces, which promise an eventual civil war on an Angolan scale.

It is this consideration which suggests that the Rhodesian raid on the base inside Zambia at just this juncture is an error of judgment so far as the outcome in New York is concerned, and not only in terms of the meagre military results. Certainly the Rhodesians have the right to attack bases within a neighbouring country from which an invasion is being prepared; and certainly Zambia has no legitimate reason to complain. But Zambia had good reason to give the Salisbury plan a cautious trial, or at least not to condemn it in New York, and the raid will tie Dr Kaunda's hands. The Bishop must therefore deplore it as much as Dr Owen, and privately Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo can rejoice. It remains for Dr Owen, however, to point out to the Council that the raid is irrelevant to the main issue; and indeed that, in future, it will be an executive council of three black to one white member who will make such decisions for the security forces.

If in spite of Dr Owen's efforts there is an attempt to pass a resolution that will actually tend to prolong the fighting in Rhodesia, it is certainly Britain's special responsibility to veto it. The harm may be done, but any other course would be disastrous.

the outcome, having retained an option to ask for more if they see anybody else getting it, the employers are reluctant to make concessions.

The teachers complain that their pay has fallen lower in the rank of average earnings since the Houghton report gave them 30 per cent. It is not in fact all clear that their standing has declined beside that of workers of a comparable kind, in types of employment not amenable to productivity deals, most of whom enjoyed no giant award in the final stages of the great wage inflation. Teachers have certainly come off better than university lecturers, for instance.

Demographic tendencies since 1974 have created a glut of teachers, rather than the shortage that might have seemed to justify higher salaries in the early 1970s. The claim that the teachers are seeking is in any case a small one even if its soundness is conceded: the sight of them closing schools in pursuit of it will scarcely persuade the public that higher rewards are due to such a sense of service, and such a sense of proportion.

tences ranged up to, say, eight years for the ringleaders, with a possibility that with remission and parole they would in fact be released after three or four, others tempted to become large-scale manufacturers and traffickers might well consider the risk worth taking, hearing in mind the enormity of the rewards which could accrue. Imposing a thirteen-year sentence on the principal planners and executives of the conspiracy means that they are unlikely at the earliest to be released much before five or six years. Such a period of incarceration might make potential entrants into the trade think twice.

Mr Justice Park has pitched the level of sentences about right. Long penalties are necessary to deter people from seeking vast profits in a trade too dangerous to the mental health and stability of their customers.

Spanish Foreign Minister, Dr Owen, Secretary of State, Sir Joshua Hassan, Chief Minister, and Mr Maurice Xiberras, Leader of the Opposition of Gibraltar.

Your ending, "Geographical considerations should not be allowed to override the wishes of the human beings directly concerned" is one of the grounds on which the Gibraltarians have been legitimately basing their right to self-determination for the past 15 years.

If the last sentence in your article, "The Spaniards might reflect that this point is valid also for Gibraltar", catches the eyes of those concerned before the next meeting, it might inspire them—Senor Orejas to show more understanding. Dr Owen to be more positive, and the Gibraltarian leaders to stand firm by their people's rights. Yours faithfully, ROBERT J. PELIZA, House of Assembly, Gibraltar. March 7.

'E. M. Forster, A Life'

From Mr P. N. Furber

Windscale inquiry findings

From Professor I. Rotblat
Sir, The wholesale acceptance by Mr Justice Parker of the British Nuclear Fuels Limited application for a reprocessing plant is astonishing to the point of incredulity. He lists 13 points made by BNFL in support of their application and 17 points put forward by the objectors. The end result of the Report is the acceptance of every one of the BNFL points, and the rejection of every one of the objectors' list, the latter including the basis of President Carter's energy policy, which was welcomed by Mr Callaghan and endorsed by Dr Owen.

Among the various arguments put forward by Mr Justice Parker, at least one is not only surprising but also absurd. This is the argument that without reprocessing we shall become wholly dependent on foreign supplies. The corollary that reprocessing will make us independent is certainly not true in relation to thermal reactors, because recycling of uranium and plutonium (the latter becoming progressively more profitable due to the build up of non-fissile isotopes) would only provide a fraction of the fuel needed to replenish the reactors, and we shall always need further supplies of uranium. The argument that we shall be able to use fast breeder reactors, because there we can convert the stock of depleted uranium into fuel. But the fast breeder was not included in the inquiry, since it is to be the subject of a separate inquiry. How then can one use an argument which is valid only in a situation specifically excluded from the discussion?

Although this is only one of many arguments advanced in the Report, it is central to the whole issue. With thermal reactors nuclear energy will never become a major source of energy, because of the exhaustion of uranium. The problems discussed at the inquiry, radiation risks, storage of spent fuel, turnover of plutonium, opportunities for diversion, danger of proliferation, would not be solved by fast breeder reactors, which are a different matter with a fast breeder reactor programme, when the whole scale of operation might be two orders of magnitude higher. Thus, despite Mr Justice Parker's contention that the issue of reprocessing and fast breeders cannot be separated.

I hope that this will be kept in mind when the Report is debated in Parliament. A sensible solution would be to postpone the go ahead for the reprocessing plant until the conclusion of the inquiry into the fast breeder reactor. Yours faithfully, I. ROTBLAT, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1, March 7.

Married women's pensions

From the Minister for Social Security

Sir, Your Social Services Correspondent (March 8) has helpfully drawn attention to the implications of the new state pension scheme for married women who are not currently working. Married women who read his article may be wondering what action they should take to get the benefit of "home responsibility protection" of their pension rights.

Briefly, the effect of the home responsibility provisions is that, for the first time, the right to a basic pension will be protected during periods spent looking after children or a disabled person. It will enable an increasing number of married women to earn a full basic pension in their own right instead of the smaller pension they can get on their husband's insurance.

To get this protection from the start of the scheme, however, a married woman must be paid reduced national insurance contributions in the past must inform her local Social Security office before April 6 that she intends to pay full contributions if and when she returns to work. A form for this purpose is attached in letter NF 1, obtainable from any Social Security office. The leaflet explains more fully what is involved in the decision whether to retain reduced liability. Home responsibility protection is only one factor, though an important one for many women.

Yours faithfully, STANLEY ORME, Department of Health & Social Security, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant & Castle, SE1, March 8.

Youth unemployment

From Mr Chris Brooks and others

Sir, Mr Nicholas Hinton's (the Director of the National Council of Social Services) letter in *The Times* of March 4 accurately reflects the considerable fears of many voluntary and non-statutory bodies about the disengagement of the Government's Youth Opportunities Programme, heavily advertised in national newspapers today (March 6).

We would add that we are also concerned at the failure of the Manpower Services Commission to arrive at decisions. In an urgent attempt to tackle youth unemployment, we have submitted proposals to the commission, which they welcomed—some submitted as long ago as July 1977. However, to date they have failed to release funds for action. Many of these schemes could have been implemented many months ago.

We believe we must participate in this Government programme, because the needs of young people demand a commitment from all of us, which the Manpower Services Commission has purported to welcome. Parliament has voted the funds: when will the commission make up its mind to let us get on with the job?

Yours sincerely, CHRIS BROOK, Director, Youthaid; ELISABETH HOODLESS, Director, Community Service Volunteers; DAVID HOWIE, Director, National Youth Bureau; TOM SHEERANE, General Secretary, British Youth Council, 237 Pentonville Road, N1, March 6.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The repatriation of Russian prisoners

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Essex, South-East (Conservative)

Sir, All who care about the honour of our country must remain grateful to your moving article (February 20) concerning the forcible repatriation of millions of Russian prisoners, and displaced persons in 1944-47, the cruelty with which the policy was enforced, and the way in which the nation was kept in complete ignorance of what was being done.

What was done was unforgivable. It is not a question of being wise after the event over mistakes made at a time when Britain was war weary and anxious to speed the return of our prisoners of war in Soviet hands; for the policy was continued after the last British prisoner came home.

It was not only that great numbers of terrified Russians were ready to take their own lives rather than to return to death torture and the living hell of Stalin's prison camps, but that the policy resulted in thousands being handed over who were not even Soviet citizens. Well might an emigre Cossack general, our comrade in the First World War, who had lived in the West since the 1920s, tell his NKVD interrogators at the Lubianka before his execution that he reproached himself only for having trusted the British.

To my mind it would be of little use holding a tribunal of inquiry now. Some of those responsible are dead: those who live can best be left to their consciences. Certainly the vast majority of their victims are dead and those who survived the Soviet executioners are old and broken.

Equally, it would be of little use to introduce Lord Greenhill's novel suggestion (March 1) for a contemporary and confidential record of controversial events to be kept by officers of high authority who have been falsified by the destruction of documents. The truth is that in a democracy there is no substitute in government or anywhere else for integrity. After all, the plea that those who issued orders in 1944-47 were obeying higher authority was the defence of every Nazi war criminal.

There is, however, one gesture that could be made that might atone for what was done. Just as Chancellor Butler in his own country totally innocent of any complicity in Nazi deeds, went down on his knees publicly at the memorial to the dead of the Warsaw ghetto, and did penance for the crimes committed in the name of the German people, so some of our own Government's all honourable men and women who have no responsibility for what was done in the name of all of us in 1944-47, could say publicly, even now "We are sorry—the British people did not know. We pledge ourselves to do nothing like this happens again." Yours faithfully, BERNARD BRAINE, House of Commons.

New British Library

From Mr Ben Weinreb

Sir, The architects' project for the new British Library which you report today (March 8) is impressive. A great library is a proclamation by a nation of the value it places upon scholarship and letters.

As a bookseller I ask, however, if the 10 acre plans make provision for the ancillary services, trades and small industries which a great library both requires and generates? I suspect not.

Compare the green isolation of the Library of Congress with the vitality of the streets in front of the British Museum (before they became inhibited by their uncertain future) and the contribution made by these supporting activities to a life and livelihood of letters is manifest. It may be argued that the new library will be time after time to its vicinity sympathetic interest and business. But at Somers Town the adjacent land is already occupied with public authority housing and there is little space available. St Pancras Station and the former station hotel, I suggest, provide the answer.

This terminal is an embarrassment to British Rail who has long wished to divert its diminishing traffic to King's Cross and Euston, while its administrators must find the once opulent bedrooms with high Gothic windows an uneasy setting for computerized activities. Had it not been for the most imperative preservation order, these splendid buildings would long since have followed Euston Arch to the scrap heap. They do, how-

Jewish vote in Ilford

From Mr Alfred Sherman

Sir, Your Political Editor, Mr Emswiler, claims to understand Ilford Jews and their reactions to Mrs Thatcher's immigration statement better than I. The foundations for his claim are of the flimsiest: a talk with a few Jews in a politicised milieu; rash comparisons between last May's GLC voting and last week's parliamentary election.

Had Mr Emswiler troubled to read my pre-election article on Ilford North in *The Sunday Telegraph*, as many of your readers will have done, he would have noted that many Jews in Redbridge as elsewhere resented being equated with third world immigrants and having their names invoked in favour of mass immigration by a less than representative and left-inclined Jewish communal establishment. I know London Jewry at first hand, as a veteran of the long march from East End to suburb, and efficacious of Jewish journalism. I began my visits to the Ilford Jewish scene before Mrs Thatcher's statement and continued afterwards. Their responses were favourable albeit sometimes guarded.

As for conclusions drawn from a comparison with last May's GLC vote, Mr Emswiler may have been so long in America that he has forgotten the golden rule not to compare local and parliamentary elections. Need I cite examples? Yours, etc, ALFRED SHERMAN, Centre for Policy Studies, 2 Wilfred Street, SW1, March 8.

Helicopters over Surrey

From Mr H. H. B. Capes

Sir, A plan to operate a helicopter service between Heathrow and Gatwick Airports is about to be brought into operation.

The licence application has been made and unless sanity prevails the service will operate for a minimum period of one year when "the demand for the service, its economics, and the noise impact" will be assessed.

The Civil Aviation Authority and the British Airports Authority are it appears careless of the effects of such a service on the environment, and equally unconcerned as to the maximum benefit to the majority of the community. Yours faithfully, HOWARD CAPES, The Goat House, Albury Close, Esher, Surrey.

Where the Atlantic ends

From the Chilean Chargé d'Affaires

Sir, The interesting article of Michael Frenchman "Where does the Atlantic end?" (*The Times*, February 17, 1978) informs the British reader in detail of the controversy which has arisen between Chile and Argentina. However, in erroneously suggesting that Chile might be "bending the court's ruling" in suit Chile's empirical view, he forgets a fundamental point: "all the islands to the south of the Beagle Channel up to Cape Horn", including those on which Chilean sovereignty has been confirmed by Her Majesty Elizabeth II's award, have been under effective Chilean jurisdiction since the 1881 Treaty, and Argentina had never before made a claim on several of them until 1977. We need only remember, as is stated in the wording to the map published by *The Times*, that the Argentine Navy, for the first time, placed a navigational beacon in Barnevelt Island on August 24, 1977.

Therefore, the intemperate affirmation of an anonymous correspondent (*The Times*, February 22, 1978) that attributes to the President of Chile "the Argentine Navy's fear of giving an inch less Chile helps itself to a mile" has caused me great surprise. This is an unfounded and insulting apprehension, for Chile does not aspire to hold any inches of territories which have not been granted by solemn treaties or recognized by an arbitration of exemplary correctness.

Michael Frenchman is more exact when he says that the phrase of the court's report "title to territory automatically involves jurisdiction over the appurtenant water" . . . sums up the essential aspect of the present problem. It is these questions of maritime jurisdiction which will be occupying the attention of the Governments of Chile and Argentina, now that the controversy over the Beagle Channel has been definitively resolved by the unappealable British award, and we can be confident—after the Presidential interview of Puerto Montt—that Chileans and Argentines will each again find a just and harmonious formula to resolve these problems.

Yours faithfully, JORGE BERGUNO, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Chile, 12 Devonshire Street, W1.

Saving historic ships

From Mr Richard Gould-Adams

Sir, Your report that the Ministry of Defence is looking for a new owner for HMS Discovery raises wider issues. While we have advanced since the scuttling of HMS Implacable in 1949, there seems to be no word of the Department of the Environment at least helping to ensure the future of Discovery—as I feel there really should be.

During the past decade more than the equivalent of every man, woman and child in Greater London has visited one or other of the four main historic ships upon in this period: the *Victory*, the *Belem*, the *Victory* and the *Great Britain*. The first two are, of course, readily accessible in London and the *Victory* in Portsmouth has been known for over a generation. But even down here in the West Country, where we only started restoring Brunel's *Great Britain* in Bristol eight years ago, this, the world's first ocean-going, propeller-driven ship, will be welcoming her millionth visitor on board in a few weeks time.

surely invalidates the current concept that public funds should be used only to help save old buildings, while nothing goes out to historic ships—except almost inadvertently through the Navy Estimates. What is the acceptance of the proposition that with individual ships as with buildings the effort required should be a joint one, involving both the public and the private sectors of the economy alike?

What can be done now? One step at least would appear reasonable. Following a recent examination of the general question by the House of Commons Select Committee on public expenditure (to which Mr Swire referred in your issue of January 20) a decision could surely be taken in principle that ships should be treated on their merits, like buildings. Yours faithfully, RICHARD GOULD-ADAMS, SS Great Britain Project, Great Western Dock, Gas Ferry Road, Bristol.

Integrating immigrants

From Dr F. A. Hayek, FBA

Sir, I have been puzzled before why the indignation protests about my letter of February 11 which you printed and the more abusive letters I received at home should insist to treat as a problem of race what I had been at pains to show was a problem of acculturation. But since you yourself now publish a further letter from me (March 1) under the heading "Origins of racism", you will perhaps permit me to make more precise what has evidently been misunderstood.

I had in my first letter deliberately dragged in the example of Czech immigration into Vienna before 1914, when probably something like a quarter of Vienna's population was of Czech descent, but which led to street riots as soon as a large number of new immigrants attempted to establish their Czech Komensky schools. Nothing like these riots demanding discriminatory government action had in recent history there been directed against the Jews until the flood of (differently dressed) refugees from Galicia arrived.

The point is that acculturation is of necessity a slow process and may almost stop when the new immigrants are numerous enough to form their own communities. This, regrettably, is almost universally resented by an indigenous population. Yours faithfully, F. A. HAYEK, Urachstrasse 27, D-7800 Freiburg (Breisgau), March 3.

Silent knit

From Mr Frank A. Sharnan

Sir, Miss Madeline Stewart (March 6) regrets that knitting "needs no longer click". This is not the only sign that the country is going to the dogs. The waxed paper seals on jars of instant coffee no longer pop when you jab a spoon through them. Yours faithfully, FRANK A. SHARNAN, Bachelor, 168 Pen Road, Wolverhampton.

TELLANREW BOOKS

period of time and the time and there is every reason to believe that another Hawthorne over the next few years. The view seems to be growing that whilst people read Dickens and Tolstoy for the excitement of apparent inevitability and dare not suggest it—glamour, they read Hardy because they find he writes about life as they have invariably discovered it to be: existentialist, inconclusive, disappointing, or downright dull, making up an existentialist sequence of what Hardy himself called "over-tired haps".

John Bayley, who has written a book about Hardy, says that Hardy's greatness lies not only in the subject-matter of the novels but in the way they are written. In his highly original but somewhat perverse essay the presence of risk in Hardy's technique and ambition, which he has established his basic technique, it seems to me, if the risk falls, this is indeed the kind of criticism which shows more than of great masterpieces and so we learn more about Desperate Remedies, The Hand of Ethelberta, A Lady's Secret and Two on a Tower than about The Return of the Native or Tess, both of which Mr Bayley takes apart but does not reassemble.

From two brief references, he would seem to regard the Gittings method of detailed biographical enquiry as vulgarly speculative, but if Gittings does not compose one's sense of Hardy's greatness either, at least on a first reading, does Mr Bayley. As he grasps at each fugitive achievement his argument rarely stays still or follows a straight line and yet I think he is more right than most in his view of Hardy's greatness. In one of his more accessible insights he suggests that the consciousness of Thomas Hardy and of Elizabeth-Jane Newson are almost one and the same. It is Elizabeth-Jane's nature (so Hardy concluded *The Mayor of Casterbridge*) which "found scope to discovering to the narrow-lived ones around her, the secret as she had once learned it) of making limited opportunities available." Yet one has only to read *Young Mr. Rissington* and *The Old Lady of the House* to see that whilst she succeeded in convincing the narrow-lived ones around her, the predator of Max Gate did not.

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Hardy's readership is increasing all the time and there is every reason to believe that another Hawthorne over the next few years. The view seems to be growing that whilst people read Dickens and Tolstoy for the excitement of apparent inevitability and dare not suggest it—glamour, they read Hardy because they find he writes about life as they have invariably discovered it to be: existentialist, inconclusive, disappointing, or downright dull, making up an existentialist sequence of what Hardy himself called "over-tired haps".

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Throbbings of Noontide

Older Hardy
Robert Gittings
Penguin Educational, £5.95

John Bayley
Penguin, £6.95

with Thomas Hardy at
Gate
H. Collins
Keworth, £5.95

Robert Gittings, John Bayley
were H. Collins converge
the art and character of
Thomas Hardy from three
different directions. Gittings

writes biographical
notes, intensively matching
evidences of Hardy's work
with the frequent concealments
of his life; Bayley's subject is
the complex
of his mind and his
writing, and Collins was
a friend who visited Hardy
in his last years six times
in 1920 and 1922.

Lines published the results
of his researches in 1928, setting them out
in a stage-directions like a
play. The result has an authenticity
and a freshness which is
often missing in the more
official biographies.

Mr Hardy, I hope I am not
up to much of your time.
I am as long as you like. Do
not mind me, but only of your
time.

There, perhaps, the fracture
of a day, a pause between
two sentences? Very
usual visitors were per-
sonal. Hardy refused to install
himself in 1921—and in
1922, he had been characteris-
tically making sure, despite
the inconvenience, that this was
his last visit to the house.

Old man like to know
if he is going to happen over
the next few hours, and, in
the end, he is.

Mr A. D. THACKERAY

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retain some control of it. Hardy
was infinitely canny.
Gittings's Hardy, whose
acquaintance we first made
three years ago in *Young
Thomas Hardy* (Penguin, £1.25),
is not an attractive figure. Per-
manently adolescent in the im-
pulsiveness of his attraction to
and for, younger women, he was
largely unaware of the pain and
suffering he caused his first
wife Emma for the last 30 years
of her life, and his second wife
Florence immediately Emma
had died. Gittings points out
that Hardy, for all his devious-
ness elsewhere, rarely lied in
his poetry, and the key text
for this tortured portrait
occurs as early as his first pub-
lished collection, *Wessex
Poems* (1898):

I took into my glass
And saw my waiting skin,
And said, "Would God it came to pass
My heart had shrunk so thin!"

But Time, to make me grieve,
Part steals, less part abides;
And shakes this fragile frame at
With throbbings of noontide.

The throbbings of noontide
flowed back into the past, so
Hardy became obsessed with
the ghosts of his dead family
and past loves. We learn from
The Older Hardy that Emma's
death in 1912 followed a lin-
gering and painful illness dis-
regarded by the poet, and that
he proceeded to abandon
Florence Dugdale, with whom
he had been in love for years,
whilst he saw again the Cornish
woman who had been his first
love, Emma, in a great
sequence of poems that resulted
from the journey idyll, romance
and guilty grief were all im-
bued with the far from timid
Dorsetshire of Dorchester, the
dear old place, where he
slept with a loaded revolver in
his bedroom at Max Gate.
Emma Hardy was avenged.

It is curious how the for-
midable Emma, for long, so
abused by the Hardy industry,
is getting all the attention,
both in print and on television,
in this anniversary year. Gittings
defends her warmly,

and being both free—and ex-
pecting little neither gratitude,
nor attention, love her justice
nor anything you may set your
heart on—Love interest—ad-
miration and all that kind of thing
is usually a failure complete—Some-

one comes by and upsets your pair
of milk in the end.

This was the Emma presented
in *Tristram Powell's* Hardy
film, *A Haunted Man*, which
followed the line of Gittings's
two books with scrupulous fi-
delity, and offered a temptingly
plausible account of her life,
inspiration by Billie Whitelaw.
Most of Emma's writings
were burned after her death,
but Gittings describes her sur-
viving 15,000 word memoir as
"delightful", and at least one
letter in the Bodleian indicates
to the full the bitterness and
humiliation of being Miss
Thomas Hardy.

Keeping separate a good deal is a
wise plan in crises", she advises a
friend who had just married
Kenneth Graham and had solic-
ited Emma's opinion of men:

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Emma as Hardy first knew her.

denies that she offered to burn
the manuscript of *Jude* (which
as a practising Christian, she
detested) and convincingly
claims that her own literary
skill (if not her punctuation),
showed more true life than
those of Florence, the other
aspiring literary lady who
appealed to Hardy's taste.

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Keeping separate a good deal is a
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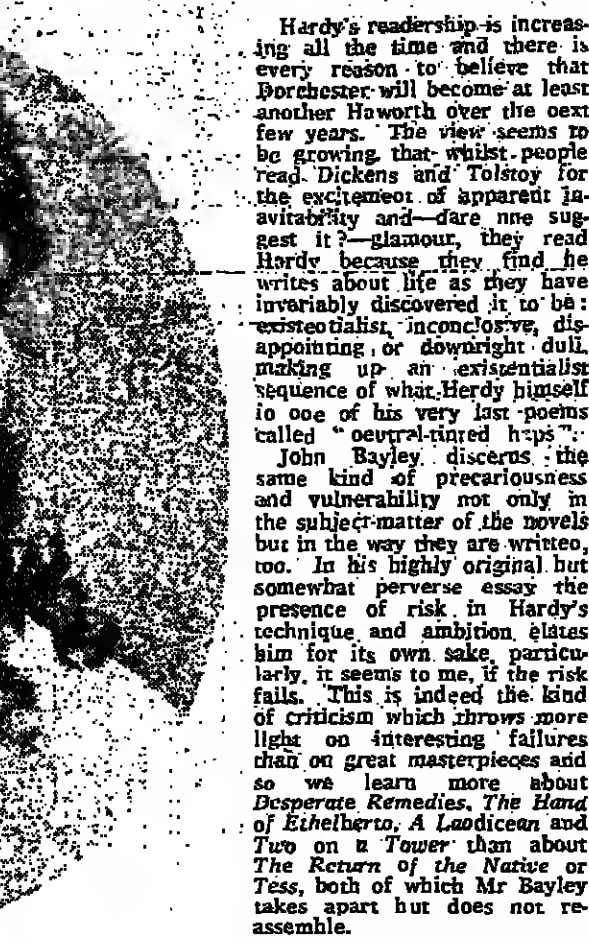
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Emma as Hardy first knew her.

denies that she offered to burn
the manuscript of *Jude* (which
as a practising Christian, she
detested) and convincingly
claims that her own literary
skill (if not her punctuation),
showed more true life than
those of Florence, the other
aspiring literary lady who
appealed to Hardy's taste.

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

* First interest yield.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Diamonds
hold their
sparkle,
page 23

rseyside row
r 1,200 jobs
at Birds Eye,
e 22

Capital spending ICI set £720m despite sterling fears

By HUI
Correspondent

Capital spending by ICI, the largest industrial company in the world, is expected to amount to £720m this year and could rise to £800m next year, the company made clear yesterday that it was clearly not deterred by the prospect of a devaluation, and decided to maintain the levels to be expected this year and next. The company's decision was based on the fact that it was clearly not deterred by the prospect of a devaluation, and decided to maintain the levels to be expected this year and next.

Mr Rowland stressed that the company's view on forward investment was not a "realistic" appraisal of market prospects, rather than a gloomy one.

ICI's fibres operations— which last year produced a trading loss of £16m compared with a profit of £10m in 1977—had been affected by the sharp downturn in market demand since the second half of last year.

Mr John Harvey-Jones, who has been in charge of reorganizing the company's fibres operations, told the conference that in the first half of last year the fibres activity had been breaking even financially.

"Total European fibre producers' losses last year 1 estimate at £500m, of which we contributed about 3 per cent with an 18 per cent share of the market," he said.

Mr Harvey-Jones said he was more optimistic about the prospects for the United Kingdom textile industry than for the rest of Europe. ICI's fibres operations, he said, would show a loss in the current year.

It was reckoned that fibre producers in Europe would require across-the-board price increases of 20 per cent to put their operations back into profit, although ICI's requirements for increases was considerably less.

Financial Editor, page 23

Ter aides considering to strengthen dollar

By Vogt
March 8

After Administration Federal Reserve Board has considerably more about the decline in the value of the dollar, public statements by Administration officials to increase the level of American intervention, reign exchange market, and they expected the intervention to positive results.

Mr Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, told a committee today that the United States had in fact been in a "deficit" situation.

He said that the White House was considering the possibility of imposing a new tariff on oil imports in a direct effort to reduce the nation's payments deficit, and in Congress to enact rapidly energy legislation, and strengthen international confidence in the dollar.

There has also been some discussion over the possibility of trying to increase foreign capital flows to the United States in the near future by raising interest rates again. Or there could be special Treasury foreign currency bonds issued to foreign central banks or more presidential statements on the extent to which America was willing to devote its formidable gold and other reserves to the defence of the dollar.

The Administration's concern does not just centre on the inflationary aspects of the declining dollar and the immediate negative balance of payments effects, but also on wider trade issues.

It is clearly increasing pressure on Congress to move more rapidly on energy legislation. Mr Blumenthal stressed that this is the single most important step that can be taken to cut the nation's payments deficit and stabilize the dollar.

Barratt Developments Limited

INTERIM STATEMENT
NATIONAL GROWTH SUSTAINED

Barratt Group reports continued growth during the six to 31st December 1977, with an improved profit over the corresponding period last year. The following are the unaudited results of the Group.

	Half year ended 31st December 1977	Half year ended 31st December 1976
£'000	£'000	£'000
54,146	45,760	
Operating, including rental income	4,038	3,636
and sales	49	208
	4,087	3,844
	537	1,998
	3,550	1,846

At the time of the Rights Issue, in November recent upturn in the private housebuilding sector affected these results to a minor degree. However, have continued to recover from the low point during the second half of our last financial year, and the time of the Rights Issue, can be seen to work through during the second half of this year. The excellent land bank, coupled with strong sales and supported by a sound financial position, has enabled the Group to consolidate further its position as a major private housebuilder.

Continually improving climate in contracting will also see the Group while its involvement in commercial development continues to make satisfactory progress.

In acquisition of James Harrison Holdings Limited, affected in the above results, but the full year's results will incorporate twelve months' figures of that company, to be issued in respect thereof will be for the full year's dividend.

A dividend of 2.64p net per share has been declared payable on 31st May, 1978, to shareholders registered at close of business on 5th May, 1978. In the unforeseen circumstances it is the intention of the Group to recommend total dividends in respect of the 30th June, 1978, of 8.05/565p net per Ordinary share.

L. A. BARRATT
Chairman

Commission price index up 1.4 pc in a month

By Derek Harris

Inflation is moving back to the levels of last autumn on the evidence of the Price Commission's early-warning index, which showed a 1.4 per cent increase in a 7.3 per cent annual rate in February, compared with January's 5.9 per cent.

Last autumn the Commission's index—usually a reliable indicator of what will happen to prices in the shops in two to three months' time—was hovering over the 7 per cent mark.

It fell to 5.8 per cent in November and maintained a flat trend at about this level into the new year. The index is based on price notifications and represents the percentage change in a six-month period expressed as an annual rate.

The flat trend owed much to a slump in price notifications from companies in August and September after the setting up of the new Price Commission with its different powers.

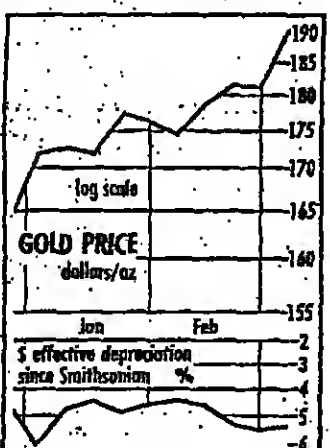
The Commission said last night that while the February figure might suggest that the previous flat trend was giving way to an upturn, it believed the underlying trend was still stable.

It expected the rate to remain stable "at about the level reached in the autumn of last year."

The lower figures of the intervening months represented a temporary decline below the underlying trend, largely because of the effect of the August and September dip in notifications. Last night's figure would have been affected by the low August returns being dropped from the six-month rolling percentage.

But there was also a bunching of notifications of price rises from non-industrialized industries last month.

Although this could have inflated the February figure slightly above the new trend, more companies— which have hitherto held back from making price rises—are now being forced to act by cost pressures despite having to run the gauntlet of the Commission's new powers of investigation.



Gold surges \$3.8 to 3-year high

Gold was in great demand again yesterday with a \$3.8 an ounce leap in its value to \$190.875 an ounce in London. It is now at its highest level in dollar terms since the end of 1974.

Some dealers believe that while the metal did not react as quickly as expected to the dollar's weakness, it is now set to advance strongly.

In the foreign exchange markets there were bursts of activity yesterday, with the market still nervous about the dollar.

The yen rose sharply, following a lead from Tokyo markets. It closed up at 224.25 to the dollar.

Sterling, in common with other European currencies, dropped slightly against the dollar on the day.

In the stock market some reasonable buying from America and Europe combined with the bulk price to add up to £1 to some gold shares.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will hold an "informal" meeting in Geneva on April 3, to consider the effect of the dollar slide on oil revenues.

How the markets moved

Rises	
A Bell	10p m 214p
Boots	3p m 198p
Unilever	3p m 37p
Ford M	2p m 31p
GE	2p m 23p
Harmony	5p m 38p
Highways	3p m 49p
Falls	
Allen & Ross	5p to 48p
Finisler	1p to 7p
Hammerley	3p m 1p
Jordan	2p m 31p
King & Sharnes	2p to 6p
Ldn & Eur Grp	1p to 14p
McLeod Russell	7p to 19p
Milbury	2p to 75p
Oil Explor	14p to 172p
Steelco	5p to 162p
Steele	2p m 150p
Strong & Fisher	3p to 65p
Tavener R'dge	2p to 102p
Yule Catto	3p to 80p

Equities rose again. Gilt-edged securities were firm. Dollar premium 85 per cent (effective rate 37.32 per cent) to add. Sterling closed at 1.9240. The effective exchange rate index was at 65.1.

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Wall Street: 25
Bank Base Rates Table: 25

Barrister may head securities panel

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor

A leading commercial barrister, Mr Patrick Neill, QC, is expected to become the first chairman of the Council for the Securities Industry.

The Council, being established under a special Bank of England working party headed by Sir Jasper Holman, its deputy governor, will be responsible for controlling the whole securities industry on a self-regulatory basis.

Representatives of nine City organizations concerned with the security markets and the Confederation of British Industry want to the Bank yesterday and gave their agreement to the broad structural outlines for the Council, which had been proposed by Sir Jasper's committee.

Mr Gordon Richardson,

Governor of the Bank of England, is now in a position to make an official move on the question of the chairmanship, and it is believed he will ask Mr Neill—who is 51, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, and the man who will succeed Lord Shawcross as chairman of the Press Council later this year—to take on the job.

The Bank wants to make its first public statement on the Council, setting out its structure and exact role, later this month. It plans to announce the name of the chairman at the same time.

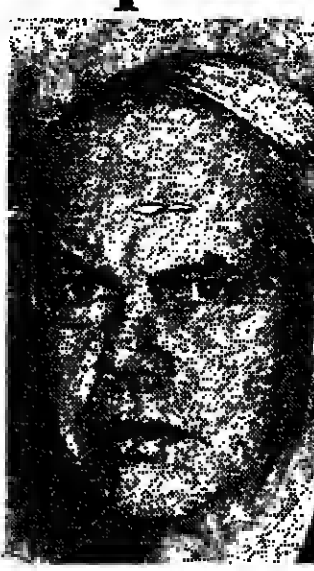
It will be a part-time appointment but one of crucial importance to the financial community, which is staking a great deal on trying to ensure that this ambitious self-regulatory venture succeeds. Mr Neill would seem to be ideal for the job—an eminent legal figure from outside the City, and an expert in corporate law.

It is also understood that the deputy chairman would be one of three lay members proposed for the 19-strong body, the idea being that the top jobs be held by people whose impartiality is beyond question and who could take expert advice from representatives of the various interest groups on the Council.

The Bank was apparently "encouraged" by the response to proposals for the Council at yesterday's meeting, but further consultations will have to take place on various issues, notably how the Council is to be financed and what form and size secretariat it should have.

There appear to be two options for financing the Council—imposing a levy on share transactions (something that would meet resistance in that it would add further to the cost of investment) or by contributions from the various City bodies involved.

If all the outstanding issues can be resolved by the end of the month as planned, it is possible that the Council would start work as early as June.



Mr Patrick Neill

Japan's UK car sales tapering off

By Edward Townsend

Japanese car sales in the first two months of the year totalled 37,485, more than double the figure for the same period of 1977, and increased their market share from 7.5 to almost 13 per cent.

The figures, coming just a day after the announcement that the Japanese government had for the first time stepped in to limit car exports to the United Kingdom, show that in February Japanese car registrations were 17,598 and captured 12.8 per cent of a market that was 7.4 per cent up on a year earlier.

There are signs, however, that the controversial Japanese share is declining. It is believed that in the first week of March, Japanese cars accounted for 10.4 per cent of sales and for the whole month the penetration could remain under 11 per cent.

Importers and dealers of Japanese cars yesterday were fiercely critical of the pressure imposed on the Tokyo government. It is felt that total Japanese car sales this year would have accounted for about 10 per cent of the market without any restrictions because of supply constraints.

Total car sales in the first two months were 288,676, a rise of 19.7 per cent on a year earlier, with imports capturing 4.8 per cent.

The upward trend is continued, the 1978 car market could total as much as 1.6 million against the 1.45 million forecast by the industry at the start of the year. This would enable the Japanese to raise sales from last year's 140,000 to 160,000 and to breach the 10 per cent "maximum" penetration.

Today's figures, issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, reveal that British Leyland won a more respectable 24.8 per cent of sales last month (27.7 per cent in February, 1977) but Ford retained the overall leadership with sales of 36,398 (26.7 per cent).

£6m Saga Holidays group is first on new issues market this year

By Ray Maughan

Saga Holidays is the first new issue of 1978 with an offer for sale which will value the tour operator at more than £6m.

Conary Bank has completed the underwriting of 2.1 million 20p ordinary shares at 105p per share and the application lists will open on Thursday, March 15.

Saga is involved in off-season inclusive holidays for those who have reached retirement age, and was founded 25 years ago by Mr Sidney de Haan as he sought bookings for his Folkstone hotel.

The group bypasses the conventional travel agency con-

ditions, and maintains contacts with 30,000 clubs in the United Kingdom, either social or those run by companies for their pensioners.

The core of the business, however, is the Saga Club itself which boasts 430,000 members. Two-thirds of Saga's customers each year have been away with the group before.

The formula appears to work, for profits before tax over the past two years have climbed from £342,000 to £1,355m, while turnover has advanced from £4.3m to £13.1m.

A significant part of profits derives from the sale of Saga's 450-strong fleet of motorhomes, which is a reflection of the group's conservative funding

policy. Saga finds that the majority of its customers tend to book their holidays early, which enables the group to plot its working capital requirements as the financial period begins.

A proportion of reserves built up over the years is set aside to finance the expected level of trading, but the bulk is kept on deposit with local authorities. In this manner, Mr de Haan believes, the group cannot overstretch itself.

The first offer for sale since South Croft last October and the first small family held company to come to the market since William Leach floated in July 1976, the issue will be handled by brokers L. Messel.

Swan Hunter ancillary workers settle for 8.5 pc

By Donald Macintyre

More than 3,000 ancillary workers at Swan Hunter have yielded to the Government's hardened application of pay guidelines in shipbuilding by accepting an 8.5 per cent pay offer.

The deal is a boost for ministerial hopes that the third of the British Shipbuilders' labour force still to settle can be persuaded to do so as comfortably within wages policy.

With settlements at Govan of 10 per cent and at Harland & Wolff of 9.3 per cent, the "fair wages" award, the Swan Hunter ancillary workers, who also received a Central Arbitration Committee award earlier this year, are the biggest manual group in the industry so far to have settled appreciably below 10 per cent.

Swan Hunter yesterday welcomed the deal. But the 1,700 outfitting tradesmen have so far resisted a similar offer, and the 3,500 boilermakers, who are not due to settle until June, have yet to open negotiations.

The group is heartened that the ancillary workers' main demands of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, made a point in accepting the offer that they wanted to ensure future stability at the yards.

Guardian Royal favours Nube

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Mr Oliver Jenkins looks likely to lose a battle to prevent the National Union of Bank Employees making an important takeover of 5,000 Guardian Royal Exchange staff.

Mr Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS) regards insurance as his territory and resents Nube's involvement.

The Guardian Royal Exchange staff union executive has agreed transfer of engagements proposals with Nube, and a membership ballot is planned in mid-April. If the union moves to Nube, a separate insurance section will be set up. At present Nube's insurance membership is extremely small. The TUC disputes committee failed to resolve the issue.

It recommended a comprehensive "spheres of influence" agreement in banking and insurance but said that if Nube and ASTMS could not reach agreement by December 5 last year it would not stand in the way of the proposed merger.

Eighty local officials of the GRE staff union met yesterday to consider the implications of the transfer of engagements.

Seamen win battle for the Olympic Glory

Management of the Onassis shipping group found themselves in a tricky situation after a lunch time meeting yesterday on board one of the group's ships on Teesside.

For the past nine days the tanker, Olympic Glory, has been boycotted by members of the National Union of Seamen and the Transport and General Workers' Union, both of whom are affiliated to the International Transport Workers Federation.

The Onassis tanker docked at the Phillips refinery early last week and the boycott has been in operation ever since. At the heart of the dispute was the policy of the ITF to persuade Onassis to register under flags of convenience to transfer those ships to the "flag of beneficial ownership".

The 77,847 tons deadweight tanker, built in Japan, has been flying the Liberian flag for four years, and according to ITF sources, the whole Onassis fleet flies Liberian and other flags of convenience. The fleet of more than 50 ships, amounting to nearly 5 million tons deadweight, is managed through a host of companies registered in Liberia.

Olympic Glory's crew is made up of Honduran and Filipino members and Greek officers, who are paid rates according to a Greek shipping agreement. It appears that low wages and conditions were a factor in the issue of the flag of registration.

However, after over a week of negotiations, union officials from the NUS and officials of the company and Greek shipping authorities yesterday confirmed the formal transfer of Olympic Glory from Liberian registration to the Greek.

The necessary documents were flown to Britain yesterday and the ship was due to sail from Middlesbrough last night flying her new colours.

An official of the London-based ITF said last night: "We believe that this is the first time that the Onassis group has had a Greek registered ship. This is something of a victory for the organization where union action has led to a substantial owner of tonnage agreeing to switch the flag of its vessels to that of beneficial ownership."

Last night an official of the Onassis organization in Monte Carlo was asked whether the company now planned to switch its other ships to the Greek flag. "This is a matter which our policy makers will have to decide," he said.

The ITF said that it would "wait and see" what action, if any, was taken by the shipping group on its other ships. If the company fails to bring about a change, the ITF's affiliated unions may well decide to impose further boycotts at ports around the world.

The decision to switch the flag of the ship appears to be cheaper than matching the minimum standard wages for crew laid down by the ITF.

Peter Hill

Mr Healey sees danger of 'overkill' on pay clauses

By Malcolm Brown

Mr Healey told business leaders yesterday that he recognized that there was a danger of overkill in the pay pledge clauses now being inserted in government contracts.

He told a delegation, led by Mr Tom Boardman, president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, that some surgery might be required to make the clauses more workable.

The Chancellor promised to convey the fears of the chambers to his ministerial colleagues. Several ministers, including Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, are expected to meet a delegation

15 pc Woolworth profit advance on sales boost

Profits from F. W. Woolworth have stepped up from a 10-year plateau and climbed by over 15 per cent in the year ended January 31 to £46.78m. Sales for the year expanded by £67m to £767.9m.

The upturn in the fourth quarter was most marked. Christmas and New Year trading pushed pre-tax profits ahead by 47 per cent to £26.1m. Sales during the November to January period expanded by only 14 per cent but the improvement was sufficient to trigger Woolworth's high operations gearing.

Despite the recent buoyancy, Mr Stephen Owen, chairman, warns shareholders that "future results will depend partly on increased consumer spending which will be influenced by governmental measures to reflate the economy and partly as a result of the company's continuing drive for greater efficiency and profitability". The shares added 6p yesterday to 68 1/2p.

Financial Editor, page 23

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia	2.76	2.70
Austria	25.50	27.50
Belgium	63.50	60.00
Canada	2.28	2.26
Denmark	11.18	10.68
Finland	6.55	6.00
France	9.55	9.15
Germany	4.09	3.87
Greece	71.50	67.50
Hongkong	9.20	8.75
Italy	165.00	161.00
Japan	480.00	455.00
Netherlands	4.34	4.13
Norway	10.63	10.18
Portugal	20.00	18.00
S. Africa	7.00	1.86
Spain	160.00	153.00
Sweden	9.18	8.78
Switzerland	3.33	3.61
US	1.28	1.23
Yugoslavia	37.50	35.50

Rate for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday by the Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency payments.

RENTOKIL GROUP LIMITED

Preliminary Announcement

	1977	1976
Group turnover	£50,834,000	£46,829,000
Group profit before tax	£8,546,000	£7,164,000
Group profit after tax	£4,172,000	£3,528,000
Earnings per share	4.41p	3.73p
Dividends		
Interim paid November 1977 (6.3% with tax credit of 3.245%)	9.545%	8.688%
Final proposed payable 29th April 1978 (9.81% with tax credit of 5.054%)	14.864%	13.132%
	24.409%	21.820%

These figures exclude exchange differences of £778,000, debits (1976: £1,126,000, credits) on translation into sterling of overseas net assets.

Share register struck for dividend 4th April, report and accounts to shareholders 7th April, annual general meeting 28th April at Felcourt, East Grinstead, West Sussex.

RENTOKIL
guards your property

TUC press policy of 'go for growth'

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Trade union leaders are pressing the Government to "go for growth" in talks with ministers designed to curb imports and win a better share of world trade for the United Kingdom.

The TUC Economic Committee is to meet Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry and Trade, to drive home its arguments for concerted efforts by and between nations to plan the growth of world trade. At the same time, the unions will insist on import penetration ceilings to stop foreign goods swamping weak sectors of British industry.

Taking as their cue the second chapter of the 1978 *Economic Review* already sent to the Chancellor, the TUC will propose to the Government a new, tripartite International Investment Review Agency with powers to oversee outward and inward flow of capital.

United Kingdom multinationals will be able to invest overseas only if it can be proved that this is not at the expense of jobs at home, if the unions have their way.

The ministerial move was decided upon at a meeting of the economic committee yesterday, at which union leaders discussed ways of convincing Whitehall of the need to get international agreement on how countries should agree voluntarily on their share of product markets.

Mr David Lea, TUC assistant general secretary, said the unions did not want countries to adopt "beggar my neighbour" policies of economic expansion; growth had to be internationally negotiated.

But the United Kingdom should be free to set import penetration ceilings in some manufactured goods, although bilateral voluntary measures such as the agreement to limit Japanese car imports were preferable.

Birds Eye dismissal of 1,200 raises political row on Merseyside

By R. W. Shakespeare

A big political row is developing over the decision by Birds Eye Foods, the frozen foods company, to dismiss 1,200 workers from its Merseyside factory after a 14-week strike by maintenance engineers.

The dismissals have been announced at the company's factory at Kirby, Liverpool, an area where unemployment is already running at about 20 per cent within the context of 10.5 per cent jobless on Merseyside generally.

Birds Eye has taken a tough line with its labour force, the company claiming that workers have broken their restraints of employment by refusing to cross picket lines set up by about 100 engineers who are on strike.

This adds a new abrasive element to the political storm which is already building up over Leyland's ending of car assembly operations at Speke, Liverpool, with the loss of another 3,000 jobs.

Some Merseyside Labour MPs

are already demanding that the Government should immediately withhold from the food company all forms of grant and other financial aids normally paid to concerns in the Merseyside Special Development Area.

At the centre of the controversy will be Mr Booth, Secretary of State of Employment, and Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, who only this week launched a campaign to promote a new industrial strategy for the north-west region.

He said it would have to be based on cooperation between companies, the unions and local authorities, since the Government could offer no "grandiose plan" for curing the region's economic ills.

Birds Eye has denied that its decision to dismiss the 1,200 workers without redundancy pay implies a permanent closure of the Merseyside factory. Management and administrative staff have not been dismissed.

The 14-week strike by the engineers is in support of a pay

claim. The management invited all other production workers to continue working and said that the jobs normally done by the engineers would be carried out by supervisors.

However, the Transport and General Workers' Union would not allow its members to cross the engineers' picket lines on these terms.

Earlier this week the company indicated that even if the engineers' dispute was settled a reopening of the factory would have to be based on acceptance of a plan involving some 500 redundancies, and improved efficiency.

Meanwhile two other major strikes on Merseyside are still in progress. At Euxine the Plessey Communications Systems factory is closed with more than 500 workers on strike.

At Ellesmere Port, the Bowater Paper Mills at a standstill with 700 production workers laid off because of a strike by 60 members of the print union, Sogat.



Mr Benn: "maximum managerial responsibility."

Energy aims outlined by Mr Benn

By Roger Vidyave

Mr Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday outlined his philosophy for broadening the duties of the nationalised energy industries in the 1980s in the wake of Liberal criticism that he is trying to over-centralise the electricity industry.

The Liberals see the Government's proposed legislation to reorganise the industry as an opportunity for more decentralisation, giving the regional boards greater autonomy. They feel, however, the Electricity Bill promised in the Queen's Speech will over-centralise the industry and retain Mr Benn's patronage in the industry.

Without Liberal support, Mr Benn cannot succeed, and there is no sign that either side is prepared to compromise on Mr Benn's proposals.

Although he made no direct reference to the controversy over the Electricity Bill, Mr Benn said in a speech at a conference in London that the time had come for a serious reassessment of the objectives which nationalised industries should pursue to maximise their contribution to the development of Britain's resources and the national interest.

He included a list of eight points, one of which said it was the duty of the state industries to develop to operating units "the maximum managerial responsibility, that is consistent with the proper discharge of their functions".

Other points included providing energy as economically as possible; cooperating with national energy policy; promoting industrial democracy; preserving the productive capacity of their main suppliers; undertaking research into new technologies; disclosing more information.

NCB chief's plea for fiscal flexibility

The National Coal Board has tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Treasury to make equity capital investments in the coal industry and to pursue a more flexible policy on finance from the National Loans Fund, Sir Derek Ezra, the NCB chairman, told the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries.

Last year's interest payments on the NCB £200m and the figure would grow in this financial year. There were options for minimizing the burden of interest payments provided the Treasury would adopt a more flexible approach, he said.

Mining was a risk business and equity capital would enable the Government to share in these risks during difficult times and reap the benefits when conditions for the industry improved.

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Other points included providing energy as economically as possible; cooperating with national energy policy; promoting industrial democracy; preserving the productive capacity of their main suppliers; undertaking research into new technologies; disclosing more information.

Peachey report delayed

The interim report by the Department of Trade into the late Sir Eric Miller's conduct as chairman and managing director of Peachey Property Corporation has been delayed by the illness of Mr D. S. Samuel, one of the inspectors, and will not be published just after Easter as originally expected.

Balance of Payments

The following are the figures for the balance of payments released by the Treasury yesterday (all figures in £m)

	1975	1976	1977	1978 Q4	1977 Q4	Q4
Visible trade	-3,205	-3,510	-1,612	-981	+54	+48
Invisible	+1,614	+1,707	+1,577	+1,577	+1,423	+1,423
Current balance	-1,591	-1,803	-35	-404	-361	-361
Current balance and other	-1,614	-1,107	-35	-341	+455	+978
Investment and other	+203	+2,808	+4,802	+63	+1,144	+1,423
Capital flows	-54	+285	+2,595	+125	+1,011	+1,228
Balance of payments	-1,465	-5,628	+7,363	-133	+2,610	+1,692

Official financing

	1975	1976	1977	1978 Q4	1977 Q4	Q4
IMF	-	+1,108	+1,113	-	+214	-
Other monetary authorities	-	+1,010	+1,113	-	+214	-
Foreign currency borrowings	-	-	-	-	-	-
by the Government	+423	-	+871	-	+287	-
by public sector under exchange cover scheme	+387	+1,791	+241	+441	+116	+74
Reserve change	+655	+853	-3,227	+516	-3,227	-2,006

The Government has replaced the concept of "net currency flow" by "balance of payments" in the main change in the transition of "public sector borrowing under the exchange cover scheme" from above the financing line to below it. The item is now conceived as a financing item in the London City of London. The item is now conceived as a financing item in the London City of London.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Danger of tinkering with house market

From Mr P. R. Amphlett

Sir, Your correspondent in her article on March 2 is quite correct in asserting that there is danger over the rationing of mortgages, particularly among professionals such as myself who are close to the market, being an estate agent in a provincial practice. She can rest assured, however, that there is no difficulty in distinguishing in this case between a genuine trend and an attempt to "talk the market up". The market is genuinely extremely buoyant and there is no doubt that this is mainly due to an imbalance between supply and demand caused by a shortage of mortgage funds over the past three years, which has caused many private developers to curtail their building programmes.

Unfortunately the effect of government tinkering with market forces affecting house purchase will have exactly the same effect as an incomes policy, that is, to suppress a genuine demand which will initially force prospective purchasers to look elsewhere for funds, i.e. secondary banks and insurance companies, and thus beat the system and will finally result in an entirely unacceptable explosion of prices when the dam is eventually broken.

If this Government genuinely believes in home ownership, then it must not be tempted to interfere with the market forces which provide the necessary finance in a free economy.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. AMPHLETT,
The Tudor House,
Bromsgrove,
Worcestershire,
March 3.

From Mr C. L. Fox

Sir, I see that the clearing banks are asking the Government to curb the service given by building societies to their depositors. I suggest with respect that the banks should have looked at the service they themselves give to their customers.

For example, with Bank Rate at 7 per cent, let us suppose an old and valued customer has £10,000 for a month having just deposited securities worth £20,000. He will be charged 9 per cent plus a "commitment fee" of £20. Total—£95. (The commitment fee is for "assessing the proposition", the correspondence, and the like.) If he later lends the bank the same amount for a similar period he will be paid at the rate of 5 per cent pa. Total—£41.66. By any standards, the bank's profit is a handsome one.

Another point: building societies, in my experience, know the importance of their "image" at the point of contact with customers. One's reception is friendly, courteous, and efficient. Years ago it used to be the same in banks. Today, as one pushes a paying-in book under the grille, one sometimes gets the impression that the solitary young person womanning the bar, and the hosts of clerks hovering away behind her, are thinking that banking wouldn't be so bad were it not for these tiresome people continually coming in to bring, or take away, money.

Finally, as Barclays have discovered, building society offices are open on Saturdays. Yours faithfully,
C. L. FOX,
Heathcote,
Farnham Road,
Berkshire,
March 6.

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Atomic Energy Authority charter flying

From Mr Rodney Fordham

Sir, Mr Sydney Fox's feature article published in the *Times* on Monday, February 27, gave a one-sided view of the Atomic Energy Authority charter aircraft flying of the staff trade union, Risley, whom I represent. A certain lack of regard for the insurance cover of employees who travel by charter aircraft.

Firstly, because the charter is paid for by funds, the authorities have no intention of raising sums of money, any compensation to their dependants from any accident under the scheme. It appears the authority have the right to this whether or not compensation is actually paid by the victims or their dependants.

Secondly, following a fatal crash of one of the charter company's aircraft, it is clear that while the endowment insurance by the victims privately, the accident was not a deduction from the staff trade union's fund of commercial flying.

Over several years efforts of the Risley staff unions to improve arrangements have not been successful. At the present time the members of staff trade unions may authority charter flights.

Yours truly,
RODNEY FORDHAM,
Chairman,
Staff Side,
Risley and Culcheth,
Whitley Committee,
UKAEA,
Risley,
Warrington,
Lancs.
February 22.

Service given by banks and building societies

From Mr C. L. Fox

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Steetley again turns in record but growth lags in second-half

By Tony May

The strength of the pound and the world-wide depression have combined to slow down growth at Steetley. When pre-tax profits at half time showed a 14 per cent rise on the second half of the previous year at £12.8m, the board of the minerals chemicals and ceramics group hoped that the second-half would show a similar level of profits.

In the event many customers had already taken up more than half of their requirements so this hope was disappointed. The second-half brought in only £10.6m against £11.2m a year earlier and margins for the half dipped from 10.2 to 9.2 per cent. Taking its cue from the market, Steetley cut prices on the shares, to leave them at 167p each, for a yield of 5.9 per cent.

Over 1977 as a whole, the group has again achieved a peak profit with a near 18 per cent advance to £23.5m before tax. Sales went up 14 per cent

to £239.8m to give a rise in margins from 9.5 to 9.8 per cent. After complying with ED 19 the tax charge is reduced from £4.5m to £5.9m but a deduction of £4.3m of extraordinary items leaves profits at £10.6m against £11.2m.

These items include £2.2m written-off goodwill and £3m of exchange adjustments for equity overseas. This was offset by favourable exchange adjustments of £1m on term loans. Earnings a share go up from 33.48p to 41.61p.

Geographically, the improved results for 1977 were achieved through increased sales and profits from operations in the United Kingdom and Australia. The Canadian and Western European operations produced lower profits. However, in the case of the quarrying and distribution Canadian offshoot this was the result of a bad winter and the low level of the economy, but there was an improvement in the second-half.

Beecham is paying £9.5m for US veterinary group

Beecham plans to buy the North American veterinary and animal health business of Rohn and Haas, a United States chemical company, and the assets of its veterinary and animal health businesses in the United Kingdom, Continental Europe and Australia.

Agreement in principle has been reached, and completion is expected by March 31, if the exchange control authorities approve.

The price is \$18.5m (£9.5m), to be paid in cash from Beecham's own resources. In 1977 sales in the territories concerned were approximately \$16.7m or £8.6m, and there was a pre-tax loss of approximately \$760,000 (£392,000). The estimated value of the tangible assets to be acquired is \$16m.

More than three-quarters of the total sales were in the United States. The North American operations, including factories at Meyersstown, Pennsylvania, which is responsible for Beecham's pharmaceutical operations in the United States. It is already a well-established and profitable veterinary business.

Primarily by rationalizing the product range and realizing its international potential, Beecham considers that it can restore the business to profitability in the first twelve months of ownership.

However the present absence of profits from the latest acquisition was noted in the market, and Beecham's shares, strong recently, slipped 3p to 590p.

Setback at Tanners hits Barrow Hepburn

By Michael Press

Barrow Hepburn Group, the leather and chemicals concern, has returned pre-tax profits of £3.2m for 1977 compared with £3.4m for 1976. Trading profit was £5.1m as against £4.3m, and earnings a share are down from 7.4p to 6.8p.

The main setback was a £1.2m loss from British Tanners Products, a company set up jointly last year with the National Enterprise Board. BHE and the NEB put up £500,000 each in equity, and £2.5m in loan capital, to start British Tanners. The move was opposed unsuccessfully in the courts by other tanning interests which alleged the NEB was exceeding its statutory powers.

In August last year BHE's chairman, Mr Richard Odey, was hoping for profits of £4m for 1977. Mr Odey also told the company had to look for a return on capital of about 23 per cent. After stripping out interest payments of just over £1m, that profits forecast was more or less met, as was the return on capital.

BTP was especially hit by the fall in shoe leather prices in the second half of 1977. The reluctance of the NEB to agree to necessary closures was also to blame, Mr Odey said. But now the workforce has been cut by 50 per cent to 1,000, and write-offs amounting to £1.9m for the closure made in BHE's accounts. Chemical profits were maintained.

Mr Odey said BTP "has every chance of success in 1978".

The final dividend is 12.5 per cent up at 5.57p.

S. A. Richardson

The directors of S. A. Richardson have stated that a well known public company, whose name is undisclosed, is prepared to make an offer for the whole of the company subject to certain conditions. These conditions are at present being closely examined by Richardson's advisers, Hill Samuel.

Stock markets

ICI takes steam out of early 6-point rally

A fresh warning from ICI on the damage being done to exports by a strong pound took the steam out of another technical rally which put the ICI Index more than six points better by midday.

The impetus for the pre-trading gains came from bank lending figures indicating a slowing of money supply growth and more closing of short-term money positions. But the ICI statement and revised balance of payments figures for the final quarter of last year—showing a big downward revision—introduced a note of caution from which most prices did not fully recover.

Consequently the index fell back sharply from its midday position to close 2.6 up to 146.7, a fourth consecutive day of gains.

The gilt-edged market had an idle session with shares closing just an eighth better and restrained by the "tap" stock. Though off the bid, longer dated gilts but turnover was described as "not great".

Equity dealers were saving last night that with most of the "bears" now closed the market might soon experience a change of heart based up to the budget, a traditionally strong period.

North east property group Bellhop Holdings continues to attract interest. The shares have risen from 48p at the beginning of the account to 65p yesterday but dealers see no signs of bid. The group is reported to be coming from the country and overseas.

Gold shares were the strongest feature of the day with rises of around £1 on some stocks. The price of bullion continued its climb reaching £199.0 at the London fixing and brokers' Greenbook forecast it breaking the £200 barrier within three months.

On this basis the brokers are bullish about the sector in general — for as long as Wall Street remains weak.

With the American buyers

back in the market with large orders Free State Gold at £7/16, President Steyn at £7/16, St Helena at £2 and Western Holdings at £15/16 all gained ground. Durban Deep at 359p and Rustenburg at 32p went 4p better.

European buyers were also in evidence though the United Kingdom institutional fund managers are still fighting shy of the sector.

A leak in Wall Street of De Beers figures prompted some American buying ahead of yesterday's announcement of the results but the profits were adjudged good enough to add a further 5p to the shares at 327p.

After dipping to 335p ICI rallied to an unchanged 338p after the annual meeting. Many thought Turner & Newall had over-reacted to Tuesday's news from southern Africa and the shares duly obliged by edging ahead to 183p. Others meeting with some support were BAT, Viceroy, and Land Securities gained 4p to 210p.

Whisky distiller Arthur Bell re-emerged as a speculative favourite, gaining 10p to 214p, while Henry Wigfall scored an early gain of 7p after rejecting the new terms, worth around 13p with some tepid support. Wigfall subsequently fell back

closing 7p better at 212p, while Comet, although active, ended unchanged at 104p.

Other electricals to feature were Dixons Photographic, which rebounded further after the doubts surrounding its Japanese supplier with a gain of 2p to 136p. Rascal were still wanted in a broker's recommendation, rising another 6p to 212p.

Properties were generally below the best but Hammerson was left with an exceptional gain of 13p to 355p and Land Securities gained 4p to 210p.

Such was the strength of the "bear" position in Unilever ahead of this week's figures that the shares jumped 12p to 490p as the short-term operators unwound. But with this exercise done the shares slipped back to an unchanged 478p on small offerings and dealers would not be surprised to see the process repeated in the next account.

Over on the oil pitch talk that the Opec countries might take action to mitigate their reliance on the dollar gave most shares a firm tone. BP, whose fourth quarter figures next week are anticipated, was reported some good two-way trading, rose 4p to 729p, while Shell

gained 7p to 504p in front of today's statement.

Further "dry" well talk hit Oil Exploration to the tune of another 6p to 172p.

In spite of below par profits BTR were boosted by a scrip, closing 3p to 213p, after 215p. G. H. Downing were lifted 9p to 214p after figures, as were Householder Barratt Developments by 4p to 108p.

But disappointing figures hit Steetley, which dipped 6p to 168p, and for similar reasons Matthew Clark lost 8p to 128p.

Woolworth was the wonder of the stores pitch unveiling profits well above City estimates. A good Christmas and a property revaluation plan was enough, in high trading, to add 6p to the shares at 681p. Elsewhere in the sector Marks & Spencer at 145p, House of Fraser at 129p, Suits at 99p and Boots at 196p added 5p in anticipation of trading there having been as good.

GUS "A" climbed 8p to 270p and British Home Stores went 4p better to 183p.

Building group William Press returned from suspension and, after touching the expected 21p level at one point, closed 11p up at 15p. Dealers reported some good two-way trading.

News that Japan is to curb

car exports to Britain, and life into the market. Although the effect is likely to be marginal Ford and BSG firms up to 3p. Appleby at 78p, Leads at 42p and Arrol-Johnston at 110p added a penny.

With the shooting cars helping distribution and the consumer boom likely to have recently depressed registrations, the current year, according to brokers, is likely to be a bumper one. Elsewhere, sector Godfrey Davis, pen, yesterday to 70p. Reilly's marked time at 70p.

A line of around 120,000 in Bryant Holdings, a unit through the market, was difficult, and the shares are firm enough at 51p. Into this West Midlands bank think that they can each way bet. Either a litigation against the bank and others is cleared, Bryant becomes a profit target, Taylor Woodrow has over 5 per cent of the share and a smaller stake in the have been accumulated someone else.

Birmingham civil and hospital equipment manufacturer Hoskins & Harte 2p to 145p on news that Bank of Trust has been its stake by 6 per cent. In the past has stressed that the bid for investment purposes and dealers see no sign of bid.

A revaluation of the company's estates was good to add a further 4p to dated Plantations at 111p. Banks and insurances, the session a few pence while discount houses managed to push ahead. Equity turnover on the day was £61.24m (13,100 lots) and Exchange Telegraph were BP, Shell, GEC, ICI, EMI, KCL, ICI, Wm. P. International, Disasters, Houses Forte and Barnet.

Latest results

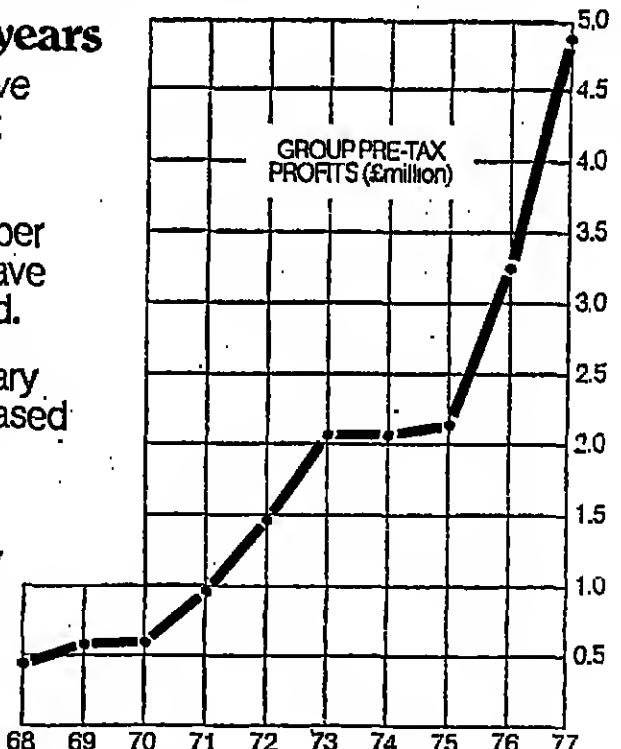
Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Attock Pet (I)	—	0.01(—)	—	—	17/4	—(4.2)
Ayer Hiltun (I)	—	5.72(27.5)	—	150(90)	—	—
Barrow Hepburn (F)	114.3(118.4)	3.18(3.41)	6.68(7.4)	2.29(1.93)	3/7	5.41(2.2)
BTR (F)	24.0(22.4)	0.01(0.01)	33.4(28.1)	4.62(3.25)	—	9.24(6.5)
City & Com In (F)	—	0.67(0.58)	—	0.88(0.71)	31/3	1.81(1.57)
Matthew Clark (I)	34.4(32.1)	1.50(1.56)	1.60(1.50)	1.60(1.50)	18/4	—(4.6)
Family Inv (F)	—	0.29(0.23)	3.96(3.19)	2.35(1.85)	3/5	2.81(3.1)
Martha Rose (F)	5.57(4.47)	0.51(0.38)	1.31(1.1)	1.31(1.1)	28/3	—(8.0)
Geelong Inv (F)	—	0.07(0.04)	1.38(1.2)	1.38(1.2)	18/4	1.71(1.5)
Rampson Ltd (I)	5.42(4.83)	0.27(0.24)	—	0.27(0.25)	3/4	—(0.7)
Ldn & Strath (I)	—	11.1(1.3)	—	0.47(0.45)	23/5	—(1.3)
Malayan Tin (I)	—	4.0(3.6)	—	2.64(—)	14/4	—
Nat Growth (I)	54.1(45.76)	0.90(0.92)	4.54(4.64)	0.90(0.80)	—	1.56(1.40)
Nu-Swift (F)	1.65(1.60)	0.004(0.13)	0.46(0.56)	0.25(0.11)	11/4	0.25(0.11)
W. L. Parnson (F)	50.83(45.82)	8.54(7.16)	4.41(3.73)	0.96(0.86)	—	1.61(1.43)
Kenneth Turner (I)	—	23.49(19.55)	41.61(38.48)	3.56(3.57)	20/4	6.5(5.7)
Strong & Fisher (F)	12.87(11.71)	0.37(1.07)	3.5(11.2)	1.87(1.7)	3/4	—(4.2)
Tromak Mines (F)	—	22.65(12.86)	0.89(0.37)	58(24.3)	17/4	38(3.8)
W. W. Warrick (F)	767.94(700.87)	62(53)	46.78(40.60)	5.95(5.15)	—	4.17(3.95)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Loss. b Forecast. c Dollars & Cents. d Rands.

Profits up 49% on last year's record level

In the last ten years

- pre-tax profits have increased almost twelve-fold.
- pre-tax earnings per Ordinary share have increased ten-fold.
- assets per Ordinary share have increased from 36p to 111p.
- share capital has increased by only 20%.



The Bath & Portland Group

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1976/77 can be obtained from the Secretary, The Bath & Portland Group Limited, 20 Manvers Street, Bath BA1 1LX.

BLUNDELL-PERMOGLAZE Holdings Limited



"Strong recovery in the second half of the year... which I am convinced will now continue."

N. G. Bassett-Smith C.V.O. Chairman

- U.K. profits exceeded £1m for the first time, an increase of 16%
- Exports again reached record levels with further increase in profits
- Capital expenditure during the year continued at a high level
- Maximum permitted dividend of 2.89p per share recommended—covered 3½ times

Looking ahead to future prospects at the Annual General Meeting held in London on 8th March 1978, the Chairman said:

"The Group has made its best ever start during the first four months of the trading year and I have no hesitation in confirming the forecast in my annual statement. Exports show further improvement and the industrial division is doing even better than at this time last year. I am confident that next January we shall be reporting a satisfactory increase on last year's figures."

Blundell-Permoglaze Holdings Limited, York House, 37 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BL. A group of companies concerned with the manufacture of trade paints and industrial finishes.

Good start at confident Blundell-Permoglaze

At the annual general meeting of Blundell-Permoglaze Holdings, the chairman, Mr Guy Bassett-Smith, told shareholders that the board has decided to reduce the number of outlets of the Lowrie organization by the closure at the end of this month of the Loughborough and Edinburgh branches. Losses have been incurred during the year so far but as a result of the decision taken and others under active consideration, he is expecting a considerable turnaround by the end of the year.

The group in which Croda International has a near 10 per cent stake, has made an excellent start during the opening four months and he is confident that its trading profits will continue on their progressive path and that at the end of this year he will be reporting a satisfactory increase on last year's figures.

INVERESK PAYMENT In view of reduction last year in the directors will now recommend increased final dividend of 3.482p (3.105p), and not 3.4155p, as announced recently. This would make total dividend for 1977 of 4.864p (4.355p).

F. W. WOOLWORTH F. W. Woolworth of the United States reports sales for year to January 31, 1978, of \$55.00m, but net profit down from \$108.2m to \$91.9m. Earnings per share fell from \$3.62 to \$3.05—New York.

NORTH ENGINEERING IND Board of Directors of Chapman Africa have agreed merger terms. A new company—Northern Engineering Investments—will become the holding company of CCA and ICA.

LONSDALE UNIVERSAL Chairman says figures for the year to March 31, 1978, are "around 20 per cent better than a year ago."

Briefly

ALEXANDERS HOLDINGS Another record year's trading is in prospect. Profits in the current year are in advance of those for the same period of 1977 and chairman views current trading "with confidence".

TMC GROUP—HAMMOND HOLDINGS Acceptances of the offer for Hammond have been received on 50.6 per cent of equity. Offer is now unconditional.

PONTONS-CORAL Acceptances of offer by Coral now been received on 86.22 per cent of Pontons. Offer extended until March 15.

McLEOD-SIPEE PLANTATIONS Offer for London Sumatra has been extended until March 21. Acceptances have been received on 24.8p a share.

BROWN & JACKSON Group has agreed to purchase Premier Construction, for £1.15m in cash. Also Bernard Puntney Group for £425,000 cash.

ATTOCK PETROLEUM The Stock Exchange has granted permission for the raising of the ordinary shares from March 13.

YEOMAN INVESTMENT Directors of Yeoman Investment Trust are confident the increased dividend for 1977 will be at least maintained for the current year.

SCOTTISH EASTERN Formal document on recommended cash offers by Scottish Eastern Investments Trust has been posted to shareholders of Western Canada Investment Co.

BERALT TIN Bakelite Xylonite has bought 250,000 shares in Beralt Tin and Wolfram, making its total holding 1,52m shares (12.5 per cent holding).

Exchange upheavals play havoc with Strong & Fisher's margins

By Our Financial Staff

Although turnover of Strong & Fisher (Holdings) expanded from £11.7m to £12.8m in the half year to November 27, pre-tax profits tumbled from £1.07m to £371,700.

However, the interim dividend of this clothing and fashion leather manufacturer is still being lifted from 2.61p to 2.83p.

Mr Edward Davies, the chairman, reports that in the half year the group experienced one of the more difficult trading periods, even for an industry which is familiar with the traditional cyclical nature of its

trading. In the light of the "volatile" circumstances, he considers the results may be considered acceptable.

The major concern, as it must be to any company exporting 63 per cent of its finished goods, was the erosion of margins because of the many and varied upheavals in international currency exchange rates.

Additionally, there was "unprecedented competition" for domestic skin supplies, because of the substantial fall in the United Kingdom lamb-kill which resulted in fellopperies operating at below capacity.

It remains impossible to predict the outcome for the full year, the chairman warns. Pre-

tax profits for 1976/77 were £1.83m.

But there was optimism portents. With the current fashion trend towards clothing leather, buyers are returning, which reestablishes the sterling margins, and its series are working at capacity.

The directors express confidence in the group's ability to take maximum advantage of the trading period ahead.

Strong & Fisher recently over Mullins (Dunelm) credited as a "fellowship" strategic importance in group.

WOOLWORTH Annual Results

Year ended 31 January 1978

	1978	1977
£000s	£000s	£000s
TURNOVER (including value added tax)	767,940	700,879
Deduct : Value added tax	(43,841)	(40,227)
TURNOVER (excluding value added tax)	724,099	660,652
TRADING PROFIT	58,630	50,934
Deduct : Depreciation on fixed assets	(7,959)	(5,771)
Interest paid less received	(5,268)	(5,610)
Add : Investment and rent income	1,117	885
Surplus on property disposals, excluding sale and leasebacks	257	479
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	46,780	40,809
Taxation	25,775	21,133
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	21,005	19,676
Deduct : Foreign currency differences	(884)	(2,312)
Add : Extraordinary items	349	782
PROFIT FOR YEAR	20,470	17,926

NOTE: Last year's figures have been restated to conform with this year's presentation and the turnover of the Rhodesian subsidiary has been excluded.

- Turnover increased £67 million—up 9.6% on last year.
- Profit before tax £46.8 million—up 15.2% on last year—but, allowing for building depreciation charge of £1.96 million (1977 £ nil), the strictly comparable increase is 20%.
- Properties are being revalued by independent professional valuers and results will be available by 31 January 1979.
- The Directors propose a final dividend of 2.95p (1977 2.725p) per stock unit, which with the interim dividend totals 4.175p (1977 3.95p).

F. W. WOOLWORTH AND CO., LIMITED
Woolworth House, 242/246, Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JL

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

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20.1	19.9	20.0	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.5	20.6	20.7	20.8	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.3	21.4	21.5	21.6	21.7	21.8	21.9	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.3	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.7	22.8	22.9	23.0	23.1	23.2	23.3	23.4	23.5	23.6	23.7	23.8	23.9	24.0	24.1	24.2	24.3	24.4	24.5	24.6	24.7	24.8	24.9	25.0	25.1	25.2	25.3	25.4	25.5	25.6	25.7	25.8	25.9	26.0	26.1	26.2	26.3	26.4	26.5	26.6	26.7	26.8	26.9	27.0	27.1	27.2	27.3	27.4	27.5	27.6	27.7	27.8	27.9	28.0	28.1	28.2	28.3	28.4	28.5	28.6	28.7	28.8	28.9	29.0	29.1	29.2	29.3	29.4	29.5	29.6	29.7	29.8	29.9	30.0	30.1	30.2	30.3	30.4	30.5	30.6	30.7	30.8	30.9	31.0	31.1	31.2	31.3	31.4	31.5	31.6	31.7	31.8	31.9	32.0	32.1	32.2	32.3	32.4	32.5	32.6	32.7	32.8	32.9	33.0	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.4	33.5	33.6	33.7	33.8	33.9	34.0	34.1	34.2	34.3	34.4	34.5	34.6	34.7	34.8	34.9	35.0	35.1	35.2	35.3	35.4	35.5	35.6	35.7	35.8	35.9	36.0	36.1	36.2	36.3	36.4	36.5	36.6	36.7	36.8	36.9	37.0	37.1	37.2	37.3	37.4	37.5	37.6	37.7	37.8	37.9	38.0	38.1	38.2	38.3	38.4	38.5	38.6	38.7	38.8	38.9	39.0	39.1	39.2	39.3	39.4	39.5	39.6	39.7	39.8	39.9	40.0	40.1	40.2	40.3	40.4	40.5	40.6	40.7	40.8	40.9	41.0	41.1	41.2	41.3	41.4	41.5	41.6	41.7	41.8	41.9	42.0	42.1	42.2	42.3	42.4	42.5	42.6	42.7	42.8	42.9	43.0	43.1	43.2	43.3	43.4	43.5	43.6	43.7	43.8	43.9	44.0	44.1	44.2	44.3	44.4	44.5	44.6	44.7	44.8	44.9	45.0	45.1	45.2	45.3	45.4	45.5	45.6	45.7	45.8	45.9	46.0	46.1	46.2	46.3	46.4	46.5	46.6	46.7	46.8	46.9	47.0	47.1	47.2	47.3	47.4	47.5	47.6	47.7	47.8	47.9	48.0	48.1	48.2	48.3	48.4	48.5	48.6	48.7	48.8	48.9	49.0	49.1	49.2	49.3	49.4	49.5	49.6	49.7	49.8	49.9	50.0	50.1	50.2	50.3	50.4	50.5	50.6	50.7	50.8	50.9	51.0	51.1	51.2	51.3	51.4	51.5	51.6	51.7	51.8	51.9	52.0	52.1	52.2	52.3	52.4	52.5	52.6	52.7	52.8	52.9	53.0	53.1	53.2	53.3	53.4	53.5	53.6	53.7	53.8	53.9	54.0	54.1	54.2	54.3	54.4	54.5	54.6	54.7	54.8	54.9	55.0	55.1	55.2	55.3	55.4	55.5	55.6	55.7	55.8	55.9	56.0	56.1	56.2	56.3	56.4	56.5	56.6	56.7	56.8	56.9	57.0	57.1	57.2	57.3	57.4	57.5	57.6	57.7	57.8	57.9	58.0	58.1	58.2	58.3	58.4	58.5	58.6	58.7	58.8	58.9	59.0	59.1	59.2	59.3	59.4	59.5	59.6	59.7	59.8	59.9	60.0	60.1	60.2	60.3	60.4	60.5	60.6	60.7	60.8	60.9	61.0	61.1	61.2	61.3	61.4	61.5	61.6	61.7	61.8	61.9	62.0	62.1	62.2	62.3	62.4	62.5	62.6	62.7	62.8	62.9	63.0	63.1	63.2	63.3	63.4	63.5	63.6	63.7	63.8	63.9	64.0	64.1	64.2	64.3	64.4	64.5	64.6	64.7	64.8	64.9	65.0	65.1
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FINANCIAL NEWS

Barratt Dev margins brighter and trend likely to continue

By Ray Maughan

Margins have started to recover at Barratt Developments and the housebuilding group expects the trend to continue in the second half of the year to end-June next. At 7.5 per cent, the return on sales is nearly back to the level achieved in the July-December period of 1976.

Strong demand has enabled Barratt to push prices up by around 10 per cent since September and it is now trying to introduce a rise of about 2 per cent each month. Unless Government action drains the supply of mortgages, the group can thus expect further significant growth.

In the first half pre-tax profits climbed by a tenth to £4.00m excluding £49,000 against £208,000 from land sales. The shares put on 6p to 108p.

The land bank, taking in the plots acquired in the £3.1m James Harrison deal, will support just over 21 years work

of 10,000 plots each year. Barratt is not entirely convinced that the larger quoted house-builders must acquire their smaller brethren for land bank purposes but intends to buy selected, probably unquoted, companies in the areas where it is not well represented—West Midlands, South Wales and, most important, South East.

The balance sheet position is still healthy with overdrafts of £12.2m absorbing less than half the available bank facility. It now seems that, in addition to land bank expansion, Barratt will make further forays into the commercial and industrial property investment field.

Harrison bought in a central Edinburgh office site where reversionary this year will more than double the rent roll. A pre-let commercial development in the centre of Newcastle is in the final stages of negotiation.

Strong final let puts Rentokil over £8m

By Our Financial Staff

The reinforced pound blunted the overseas results of the Rentokil Group, but it still turned in record profits for 1977—as it has done every year since going public in 1968. Topping the £8m mark for the first time, pre-tax profits rose by 19.3 per cent to £8.54m on sales 8.6 per cent up at £50.83m.

Reporting profits 13.3 per cent ahead at £4m in the first half, the board said it expected the second half's figures to be at least as good as the first's.

In fact, the second half was 25 per cent better than 1976's last six months. A breakdown of the latest figures shows that, over the year, United Kingdom profits rose by 38.5 per cent to £5.58m, while those from overseas fell by 5.5 per cent to £2.95m. The rise in the exchange rate of sterling accounted for the overseas reduction. Profits for 1976 would have been £253,000 lower at £2.87m, the board explains, had they been translated into sterling at the same rates as applied to 1977 profits.

Overseas sales showed little improvement, being up from £23.18m to £23.65m. The United Kingdom sales expanded from £23.64m to £27.17m, including exports up from £289,000 to £316,000.

New profits, after tax, rose from £3.52m to £4.17m. But this year there are extraordinary items of £778,000 to be deducted, against credits of £1.12m in 1976.

Earnings a share improved from 3.73p to 4.41p before extraordinary items. Rentokil, which is a "close" company, is lifting its total gross payment from 2.18p (adjusted for scrip issue) to 2.44p. The board said yesterday that a good start had been made to the current year.

So, in spite of the strong pound, the group looks likely to have another record-breaking year in 1978. A pre-tax profit of £10m seems probable. Rentokil, which is 55 per cent owned by Sir Philip Roden of Denham, is a specialist in pest control, bygiene services, timber preservation, damp proofing and thermal insulation.

Simon Eng to take in poultry processor

By Michael Clark

The boards of Simon Engineering, Gordon Johnson-Stephens Holdings and its chief shareholder, the West of England Trust, have now reached agreement for Simon to buy the whole of GJS. The terms arrived at are 24p cash for each ordinary 25p share in GJS. This gives GJS a total value of about £1.58m.

The boards of GJS West of England and certain other major shareholders in GJS have already agreed to accept the offer for 4.2m ordinary shares, about 64.2 per cent of the issued capital.

Added to this the West of England has conditionally agreed to buy three of GJS's subsidiaries. These are Marlowe Spencer, Woodberry Chilcott and John Vessey.

Proposals will be put to the holders of the £150,000 1s per

cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 1980-84, and the £700,000 10 1/2 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock, 1979, of GJS for their repayment at par in the event of the offer becoming unconditional.

The directors of GJS, who have been advised by Chartered House Japhet, consider the offer to be fair and reasonable and intend to recommend shareholders to accept the offer, as they have agreed to do for their own holdings.

Gordon Johnson-Stephens is mainly engaged in the making of poultry and poultry by-product processing equipment. Simon's objective will be to stabilize and later to expand its operations so as to establish a significant British-based poultry and meat processing equipment operation capable of holding its own against international competition.

Shipstone move to repel N Foods

Nottingham-based brewery James Shipstone has stepped up its effort to repel the bid from Northern Foods.

In a document sent to Shipstone shareholders Mr Robert Combe, chairman, strongly urges them to reject the offer. He goes on to add that his board is confident that the group will shortly be able to report record profits for 1977. In the event of the bid, which values Shipstone at 300p a share, the Treasury has indicated consent to a dividend increase. The board has decided to recommend a more-than-doubled final dividend of 11.33p, making a total of 14p.

A revaluation of properties has been commissioned, and preliminary information makes

clear that this will reveal a vast increase in value.

York Waterworks' £500,000 issue

York Waterworks Company has arranged an issue of £500,000 11 per cent redeemable debenture stock, 1986, at a price of £98. The placing price is payable at £25 on March 13, with the balance on May 11. Interest on the stock is payable every six months on January 2 and July 1 with the first payment of £1.95 due next July.

The stock is redeemable at par on June 30, 1986. Proceeds of the issue will be used to redeem £150,000 of 3.15 per cent redeemable preference

stock and to provide funds towards financing capital expenditure.

Another peak likely for Saatchi & Saatchi

"At this stage, it would be reasonable to expect 1978 to be another record year for the company," this is the cheerful comment from Mr Kenneth Gill, chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, who is also the holding company of Saatchi & Saatchi Compton, Britain's largest quoted advertising agency. The board looks forward with enthusiasm to a year of continued expansion in the main agency business, "as well as to the prospect of the many good prospects for growth in and around our industry."

International

Reed doing well in Australia

Sydney.—Reed Consolidated Industries, a subsidiary of International, had a 26.5 per cent increase in profits after tax to a record \$A7.4m in the year to December 31, last.

Although the British Parent has experienced severe problems in Canada, the Australian operations saw sales rise by 6.7 per cent to \$A22.4m during the year. This compared with \$A21.0m in 1976.

Pre-tax profits rose by 9.2 per cent to \$A11m from \$A10m. The final dividend goes up from six to eight cents per stock unit.

Reed Consolidated holds interests in a wide range of paper-related industries in Australia, including a book division, a mail order business and building materials. The parent owns 81 per cent of the group, which is quoted in Sydney and Melbourne.

Pakhoed retreats

Rotterdam.—The Dutch international handling, transport and property group Pakhoed Holding announced that 1977 profits after tax amounted to F13.9m (about £933,000) compared with F143,092,000 (about £10.3m) for 1976.

The downturn reflected a big setback in the Pakhoed tank storage division. Moreover taxes and extraordinary charges were higher than in 1976. The net profit will be added to the reserve. The supervisory board has approved this decision. This means that there are no profits available for the declaration of a dividend.—UNS.

La Rinascente loss

Milan.—La Rinascente, one of the largest Italian chain store groups, reported a loss of Lire 4.9 billion for 1977, up from 2.7 billion. The board attributed the loss to slackened demand and rising costs.

The group said that total sales amounted to Lire 663.5 billion, an increase of 17.5 per cent. La Rinascente is controlled by Istituto Finanziario Industriale (IFI), the building company of Fiat. Last year it took over Italian-based chain stores of the United States Penny group.—AP-Dow Jones.

Banco di Roma decides on capital increase

The Italian state-owned Banco di Roma has decided to raise its registered capital to 70,000m lire from 40,000m lire. The board of the bank has ruled that a share of the capital increase, roughly equal to 20,000m lire will be free, and that the remaining 10,000m lire will be made on payment. For the operation on payment Banco di Roma is to issue two million shares of 5,000 par value, which will be offered as an option to shareholders in the ratio of one new share for every four now held. The operation on a free basis will be achieved through the issue of four million shares which are to be distributed to shareholders in the ratio of one new share for every two now held.

Business appointments

New chairman for Clerical, Medical Assurance

Mr Douglas Morphet will succeed Sir Robert Black as chairman of Clerical, Medical and General Assurance Society after the Society's annual general meeting on May 10. Sir Robert is retiring. Sir Richard Young will become deputy chairman of Bossey & Hawkes on May 1. Mr Alan Clapham, group chief executive, is retiring next year and is to be succeeded by Mr Anthony Kilby. Mr Clapham remains an executive director. Mr Dennis Gillard becomes director of market development. Mr Geoffrey Cox becomes managing director of Bossey & Hawkes (Musical Instruments) Ltd, while Mr Gillard remains chairman. Mr Robert Grant is to be managing director of Bossey & Hawkes (Electronics). As a result of the recent agreement to set up a Lynx helicopter production line in Egypt, Western Helicopters has made appointments to the board of the newly-formed Arab British Helicopter Co. Mr V. M. A. Jones becomes non-executive vice-chairman and remains commercial director of Western Helicopters. Mr R. B. Perry, formerly works director at Western Helicopters, becomes managing director of Arab British Helicopter.

Mr Bernard Conby becomes a director of Barclay's Merchant Bank from April 1. Mr M. F. Oppenheimer has been appointed a director of De Beers Consolidated Mines. Mr M. C. Swift, deputy secretary of the British Bankers' Association, will be secretary-general from June 1. He will succeed Mr R. K. C. Giddings, who is retiring.

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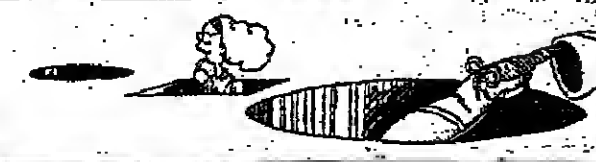
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General Vacancies

Home Office
The Police College,
Bramshill
TEMPORARY
TUTOR

There is a temporary vacancy for a full-time Tutor at the Police College, Bramshill House, Basingstoke, Hampshire. It is anticipated that the appointment would be for 8 months in the first instance.

The Police College is the centre of higher training for police forces in England and Wales and is staffed by officers from other parts of the United Kingdom and from overseas. The academic studies cover a wide range of social studies including government, sociology, psychology, economics and international affairs. The successful candidate should be a specialist in criminology, and a qualification and particular interest in jurisprudence would be an advantage. He or she will be expected to take part as a tutor and syndicate director in the general instructional work of the College which has an increasingly interdisciplinary character. Tutors are responsible to the Dean of Academic Studies and work under the immediate direction of the Academic Directors of the various courses.

The salary scale for this grade, including 1976 and 1977 pay supplements is £4139-£5761 a year. The successful candidate will be expected to take up post as soon as possible.

Applications, giving full details of qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of 2 referees, should be sent to Miss M. Warren, Room 217, Whitlington House, 19/20 Aldred Place, London WC1E 7EA, not later than 31st March 1978.



Department of the Environment,
London

Assistant Inspectors
of
Ancient Monuments

...to be concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of sites, and buildings of all periods from the earliest times to the 19th century. The work involves making inspections to identify those which need to be preserved, investigated or restored. Negotiations with owners, occupiers, local authorities and developers are frequently involved.

Candidates must already have a degree with 1st or 2nd class honours or a post-graduate degree or equivalent qualification, and some knowledge of the general archaeological and historical background of sites, monuments and buildings from the Neolithic period to the Industrial Revolution. They must also have an enthusiasm for archaeology preferably with a special interest in a particular branch. A knowledge of Church archaeology advantageous.

Starting salary may be above the minimum of the range £3,330-£4,885. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 5 April, 1978) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 8551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref. G/9780.

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The Association is one of the largest builders of purpose-built accommodation for the elderly throughout England, Scotland and Wales, and currently has over 6,000 units either completed or under construction.

This is a challenging and rewarding job for a man or woman with personality and imagination. Please write, with full details, to:

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There is a small department dealing with the maintenance of records, the calculation of benefits, and the preparation of financial and statistical reports for the Trustees and Management.

The successful applicant (male or female) will be responsible to the Trustees for the administration and running of the present schemes and any future improved schemes. He or she will be required to advise and assist the Board of Management on matters of pension policy.

This is a senior appointment and the salary will be attractive for the person with the relative experience. Please apply to writing giving full details of qualifications and career to date, including current salary, to:

The Company Secretary
The Daily Telegraph
135 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4EL

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Please write with a brief c.v. to Mr G. J. Newby, R. Seifert and Partners, 34, Red Lion Square, WC1.

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The Personnel Department

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Candidates (aged at least 25) should normally have a relevant degree with 1st or 2nd class honours (or equivalent) and teaching experience at secondary, adult or tertiary level. Some interest in subsidiary subjects such as international law, international relations theory or decision theory desirable.

Starting salary will be within the range £4,980-£5,575. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme. Accommodation may be available for a single person.

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Small American organization requires French, German, Italian, Spanish, and English speaking secretary. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

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Owing to ill health, a vacancy has arisen for a P.A./Secretary to the Chairman of Butterworth (UK) Ltd. The job will be mainly based in London (Kingsway), but will involve travelling to our offices at Borough Green, Kent, on 2 or more days a week (normally Mondays and Fridays), when the Chairman is working there.

The job involves the use of all the usual secretarial skills, including a high standard of shorthand and typing. The salary will be appropriate to the position depending on ability and experience. Luncheon vouchers (50p per day) and travelling expenses between London and Borough Green will be paid. There are pension and sick pay schemes.

Interested applicants should write with career details to: Ms Laura Marsh, Butterworth & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., Personnel Department, 88 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6AB.

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Secretary required for Accounts Officer of a Civil Service Trade Union near Canary Wharf. Applicant should have shorthand and typing qualifications and be able to deal with interesting work involving figures. Starting salary £3,430 rising to £4,000 in 4 years to £4,500 (including supplements), extra allowance for higher shorthand proficiency (holder of 1st April). Hours 9.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., 4 weeks' holiday.

Apply by letter giving age, qualifications, experience and day-time telephone number to: Deputy General Secretary (C.R.), Institution of Professional Civil Servants, 5-7 Northumberland St., London WC2N 6BS.

c £5,000

The Managing Director of this international company operating in the field of international trade and commerce requires a P.A./Secretary to assist in the day-to-day running of the company. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

Angela Mortimer Ltd.

188 Piccadilly, W.1
Tel: 499 5376

£4,500 + bonus

MANAGEMENT TRAINING: A first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience is required for a leading international company. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

GRADUATE GIRLS/

Recruitment Consultancy

J.F. CONSULTANTS

01-493 5212

SECRETARY

required for partner of West End Estate Agents. Good shorthand/typing speeds necessary. Age approx 20-30 years. Salary negotiable. LVs, attractive bonus scheme.

Please telephone Mrs West 01-529 9292.

ARE YOU A SUPER P.A./SEC. WITH TOP SKILLS?

If so, my boss, a Director of a small, trendy firm of Management Consultants is looking for a P.A./Secretary to take his place in return for a very attractive salary. You're even offered a 1.1 week's holiday and LVs.

Interested? Then phone me on 01-493 5212 for an appointment.

CONTACT MRS. PEREIRA ON 499 1344

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required by Consultant of small firm of Chartered Surveyors and Project Managers. Interesting and varied work in pleasant surroundings. Must be able to work on own initiative and willing to deal with a variety of clients. Good salary and 4 weeks' holiday. Please telephone 01-427 2641

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£5,000 + Benefits

W. E. A. Records Limited is one of the fastest growing companies in the music industry, selling the records of artists such as Rod Stewart, The Eagles and Fleetwood Mac. Our Managing Director of Manufacturing and Distribution, needs an Assistant to help him run our factory in West Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire. Although the position requires some secretarial duties, there will be considerable involvement in many aspects of the business. You should be aged between 27 years and 35 years, have a car, and be prepared to work in 2 locations. You will have already held a similar position and have good shorthand and typing skills. A great knowledge of German and/or French would be an advantage.

The music business is exciting, demanding, and very rewarding.

Please write giving details of age, qualifications, experience and current salary to: David Martin, Personnel Manager, W.E.A. Records Limited, Abingdon Lane, Wexley, Middlesex.

SECRETARY/PA Publishing

London, W.1

Young Financial Controller in a lively enthusiastic publishing company needs a Secretary/PA. The successful candidate will have personality and drive, be organized and numerate. Varied duties include shorthand and audio, figure typing and general PA work. We offer an attractive salary and opportunity for advancement—for further details write to or call Sandra Campolongo, Phoenix Publishing Company, 169 Wardour Street, London W1A 2JX, 01-437 0688.

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for Merchandising Manager

Busy job in world-wide known company. Excellent working conditions.

Salary is excess of £4,000
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Norma Skamp Personnel Services Ltd., 14 Broadway, London SW1

Can you handle 4 Dynamic Directors?

Small Property Co., located in luxurious Central London offices (off Oxford St.), requires top class Secretary/PA. Initiative, test and efficiency required for a salary of c. £4,000.

Please ring Mr Raymond Smith, 01-629 1248.

The Society for the Study of Medical Ethics

Tavistock House (North), Tavistock Square, London W.C.1.

Experienced Secretary

The Director of Studies of the London Medical Group requires a well educated, experienced and motivated Secretary to assist in the day-to-day running of the group. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

Tel: 01-367 8133 or write.

BUSY FRIENDLY OFFICE

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25-30 to assist two girls to run a busy office. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

Please telephone Miss Elliot on 240 2604.

£4,000 + pa

for a permanent top-grade permanent secretary/PA who is capable of handling a wide range of administrative and clerical duties. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

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Tel. Mrs. Moore, 01-860 6838 or write: 70a High Rd., Wexley, Middlesex.

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used to working at Director level, with a good knowledge of French and aged between 25-35? Then you may be the person I am looking for to take over my job as secretary to the Human Resources Director (including personnel staff training and development) of an international pharmaceutical company in North West London.

The job requires a high degree of confidentiality, high standards in shorthand and typing, spoken and written French, a happy temperament and of course a sense of humour.

The work is varied and interesting, the salary, around £4,000, and the benefits are excellent.

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Salary negotiable.

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Taking minutes at certain meetings is part of the role and since the association's work is closely linked with the EEC, a good knowledge of French and/or another Community language would be an advantage.

Salary negotiable starting not less than £3,800, which is pensionable.

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Secretary required as soon as possible to take over the day-to-day running of the Guy's Hospital Medical School. The successful candidate will be a first class secretary with a minimum of 5 years experience. Salary £3,700 per annum plus pension and other benefits. For details and application form, please apply to the Assistant City of London, c/o 112-114 Houndsditch, London EC3A 7BU.

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£1,589 355 p.p.s. 1977 8511 miles.

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Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, tel: Classified Queries Dept 01-837 1234, Ext 7180.

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Deadlines for cancellations and alterations to copy for publication: For Monday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Friday; for Tuesday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Saturday; for Wednesday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Sunday; for Thursday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Monday; for Friday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Tuesday; for Saturday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Wednesday; for Sunday's edition, the deadline is 12 noon on Thursday.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD. We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day, mistakes do occur and, if you spot an error, report it to The Classified. Queries department immediately by telephoning 01-837 1234 (Ext 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

...the natural man secretly has the things of the world and of the flesh and of the devil; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. — 1 Corinthians 2:14.

BIRTHS
BENNETT—On Tuesday, 7th March, at St. Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth, London, a daughter, Emily, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett.

BRADSHAW—On March 7th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a son, Edward James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Bradshaw.

CHAPMAN—On March 7th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a son, Edward James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Chapman.

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BIRTHS

SHOUBALL—On Tuesday, 7th March, at St. Mary's Hospital, a son, Edward James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Shouball.

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DEATHS

TAYLOR—On March 6th, 1978, at St. Mary's Hospital, a son, Edward James, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Taylor.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

£100 from you—
£1,000 TO CHARITY
Unbelievable?—but if you pay tax at anything like the highest rate, a loss to you of £100 spendable income would give us around £1,000 to support desperately needed research and pioneering projects in Mental Health.

If you have £1,000 (or more) uninvested capital, please write to us for details of how an interest-free loan (repayable at seven days' notice) will help in the fight against the despair and economic consequences of mental illness.

The Mental Health Foundation
2 (731), Wimpole Street, London W1M 8HY. Tel. 01-580 0145.
Britain's Central Charity for Mental Health.

THE TIMES GUIDE TO CONFERENCE SERVICES AND FACILITIES
The above feature has been moved to a new section in the Guide to Conference Services and Facilities. For a complete list of services and facilities, please refer to the new section in the Guide.

THERE'S A CHANCE YOU WILL BE TOLD "YOU'RE DIABETIC"
1,000,000 diabetics in the U.K.—you could be the next. It's a shocking statistic. But it's also a warning. If you have a family history of diabetes, or if you are overweight, or if you are over 40, you should be tested for diabetes. The test is simple and painless. It can save your life.

WILL THE TREASURER OF THE
Official of the Treasury, who is responsible for the management of the Government's finances, has announced that the Government will be introducing a new measure to help the Treasury to manage its finances more effectively.

SPEND NEXT SUMMER IN AMERICA—ALL EXPENSES PAID
CAMP AMERICA offers students and teachers a chance to spend the summer in America. All expenses are paid. The camp is held in a beautiful setting in the heart of America. It offers a wide range of activities, including sports, music, and drama. It is a great opportunity for students to experience life in America.

WINE AND DINE
The main chamber at the new restaurant, which is located in the heart of the city, offers a wide range of wines and dishes. The restaurant is a great place to dine and enjoy the company of friends.

YACHTS AND BOATS
33rd NAUTICAL MOTOR SAILER 1975
London boat in mint condition. The boat is a motor sailer, which means it can be sailed or powered. It is a great boat for cruising and racing. It is available for sale at a very low price.

SPRINGTIME
WARDROBE. Our beautiful new collection of clothes is now on display. The clothes are made from the finest materials and are designed to be worn in the spring. They are a great addition to any wardrobe.

SAVING FOR THE NEW FUTURE
The new future is a bright one. It is a future of opportunity and growth. It is a future that we can all share. We can make it happen by working together and by using our resources wisely.

TWO OF THREE MERCEDES
Two of the three Mercedes cars are now on display. The cars are in excellent condition and are a great addition to any collection. They are available for sale at a very low price.

PHOTOGRAPHY
The new photography course is now open. The course is designed to help students learn the basics of photography. It covers topics such as composition, lighting, and camera operation. It is a great opportunity for students to learn a new skill.

SECRETARY
The new secretary is now on display. The secretary is a great addition to any office. It is available for sale at a very low price.

MAGNIFICENT TYPE
The magnificent type is now on display. The type is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

GUARANTEE
The new guarantee is now on display. The guarantee is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

JOINT CONTACT GROUP
The joint contact group is now on display. The group is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

THE MISSION TO SEAMEN
The mission to seamen is now on display. The mission is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

COUPLE
The couple is now on display. The couple is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

FINANCIAL OFFICER
The financial officer is now on display. The officer is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

STUDENT
The student is now on display. The student is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

TECHNICAL
The technical is now on display. The technical is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
The commerce and industry is now on display. The commerce and industry is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

NEED YOU!
The need you is now on display. The need you is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

WE WANT A
The we want a is now on display. The we want a is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

Medical Copywriter
The medical copywriter is now on display. The medical copywriter is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

who does the
The who does the is now on display. The who does the is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

Times Crossword
The times crossword is now on display. The times crossword is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

May & Baker Ltd.
The may & baker ltd. is now on display. The may & baker ltd. is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

pharmaceutical manufacturers
The pharmaceutical manufacturers is now on display. The pharmaceutical manufacturers is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

have an immediate vacancy
The have an immediate vacancy is now on display. The have an immediate vacancy is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

in their in-company
The in their in-company is now on display. The in their in-company is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

copywriter with sufficient
The copywriter with sufficient is now on display. The copywriter with sufficient is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

experience and creative flair
The experience and creative flair is now on display. The experience and creative flair is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

to turn a marketing brief into
The to turn a marketing brief into is now on display. The to turn a marketing brief into is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

effective promotional material
The effective promotional material is now on display. The effective promotional material is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

for the medical profession.
The for the medical profession. is now on display. The for the medical profession. is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

Pleasant working conditions
The pleasant working conditions is now on display. The pleasant working conditions is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

at our Upminster office (C1)
The at our Upminster office (C1) is now on display. The at our Upminster office (C1) is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

reunites Frenchman Street;
The reunites Frenchman Street; is now on display. The reunites Frenchman Street; is a great addition to any collection. It is available for sale at a very low price.

PERSONAL C